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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# INFORMATION REPORT

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The attached material is sent in the belief that it may be of interest:

1. Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.
2. Daily Reviews of the Baghdad Press, Baghdad, Iraq.

These attachments are of a free classification.

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B A G H D A D   P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq.

Saturday, May 20, 1950.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is no comment on the Jewish exodus. The departure of the first party of Israel-bound Jewish emigrants is being reported under simple headlines such as "Departure of First Party of Iraqi Jews to Israel" (Az-Zaman). (Ed.)

Az-Zaman reports that the first party was made up of 151 persons; it is noteworthy that all of them were of the poor and working class and their baggage was folded with sheets and not placed in suitcases. They were carried to Cyprus by two planes, the first left around noon and the other at 1:50 p.m.

\*

Iraqi political circles are awaiting with impatience the report to be made by the Prime Minister about the meeting of the AL Political Committee. It is understood that the Prime Minister remained at home on the day of arrival (May 18); however, he received some cabinet members only in the evening, and was received in audience by the Regent.

He is expected to make his awaited statement to the Council of Ministers today at its evening meeting. It is not known whether the government would issue an official announcement later. But, "informed circles" have denied that the Iraq government is preparing a memorandum to the League against the decision of expelling Jordan. Moreover, the same sources have denied too that there exists any difference of views between the cabinet members; and more than one of them have stated that "such a difference exists but in the mind of the rumor-mongers." (Az-Zaman)

\*

Commenting on Jordan's incorporation of Eastern Palestine, Minister of State Jamil Al-Orfali (who, as Khalil Kanna, is a Constitutional Union Partyman, Ed.) made a statement to the ANA, yesterday (May 19):

"I am a proponent of the Greater Unity. Whoever is such does welcome any rapprochement or union among Arab states or any parts of them."

He added, "I have welcomed King Abdullah's action of incorporating the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan, following the.....

May 20, 1950

the fact that its inhabitants themselves have expressed their opinion about such a union by means of the free elections held in accordance with the popular will. If there is any objection to this annexation on the part of any state, it should be limited to the only point of whether the latest elections were free or not. That is why, I am of the opinion that the Political Committee should send a commission to ascertain this point. If it finds out that it has taken place in accordance with the will of its inhabitants, no one can make any objection, because no state is entitled to meddle with the nation's will."

And he concluded, "It is the only way to avert treading paths which lead to shaking up the Arabs' being and to dividing them. We have enough of hanging to the trains of imagination and fancies." (Az-Zaman).

\*

Iran has proposed to Iraq an air agreement. (Az-Zaman)

\*

It is noteworthy that absenteeism of Jewish students is general. Consequently, the "Rachel Shahmoun's Evening Primary School" and the "Menashi Saleh's Evening Primary School" have closed down. There is no attendance at the "Private Israeli Education School" and at the "Jewish 'Manahil' Private School." (Al-Akhbar).

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DAILY REVIEW  
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of the **DO NOT DETACH**

BAGHDAD PRESS

Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq

Sunday, May 21, 1950  
Monday, May 22, 1950

\* \* \* \* \*

PRIME MINISTER REPORTS TO CABINET ON AL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
DELIVERATIONS.

The Council of Ministers, reports Al-Umma (5/21), convened on Saturday (May 20), at 5:30 p.m., until 10:00 p.m. The Prime Minister reviewed the political situation, and the questions discussed at the AL Political Committee in Cairo, mainly the question of incorporation of Eastern Palestine by Jordan.

After the explanations given by the Prime Minister about the outcome of the meeting of the Political Committee and Iraq's attitude to it, the Council of Ministers passed to its agenda. It approved the Capital Works budget, including the Railways.

\*

According to the Sharq Al-Adna correspondent in Amman, Iraq Interior Minister Saleh Jabr would visit the Jordanian capital very shortly. But, Al-Nabaa (5/22) says that it has contacted the Jordanian Minister in Baghdad to check the report; his answer was: "I don't know of it."

\* \* \*

PRIME MINISTER URGES THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REFRAIN FROM  
COMMITTING IRAQ IN LEAGUE DISPUTE.

On Sunday, May 21, the Chamber of Deputies convened. Its President advised it of the following telegram:

"H.E. the President of the Iraqi Chamber of Deputies, Baghdad.

"The unity of the two shores of the Jordan river is a national aspiration which we have realized. We hope that this unity be a step forward to realizing the proper Arab Unity. We thank the Iraq National Assembly for its noble stand.

"The President of the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies  
Omar Matar"

The.....

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May 21 & 22, 1950

The first speaker was Baha Uddin Nuri, who said that he had tabled a motion for cabling to the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies, but it was postponed; that is why, he believes that the time has come for at least answering this telegram.

Dr. Abdul Majid Abbas backed Baha Uddin Nuri, for sending an answer in order to "express sincerely our Arab feeling towards this blessed step (to unity)."

Salman Sheikh Daud, upholding Jordan's action, said, "Those who abhor union, strive for dissension and urge territorial division, call it (Jordan's action) treason, nationalism, in their opinion, is division, discord, and insults to the noble Hashimite family, which is entitled more than anyone else to leadership." That is why, he wants the Iraq parliament to support Jordan's action." He explained that Baha Uddin Nuri's motion of some days ago was postponed because the AL Political Committee was still deliberating.

Jalal Baban suggested that the Chamber should hear from the government about its attitude before answering the cable. But, the President of the Chamber intervened saying that the matter is whether to answer the cable and not to know the government's attitude.

Then, the proposed answer was read out and approved. But, the Prime Minister intervened at this point, saying:

"Gentlemen, I would like to inform you of the present situation. I request your High Assembly not to take any hurried step regarding such a matter. It will only hamper the government's action to find out a final and reasonable compromise which would please everybody. That is why, I believe that your High Assembly should confine itself to thanking the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies in a telegram worded in general terms, such as 'God achieve our and the Arab nation's aspirations'. As for overt support, I assure you that it would hamper these efforts, and I do not think you want it. I request you to agree to sending a mere courtesy answer, worded in general terms, which does not commit us. I do not believe that there is anyone among you who finds the need of complicating instead of simplifying the problem; and, of course, your Assembly to a large extent influences the government's policy. We are still on the way to compromise and to bringing the contestants' viewpoints together. Gentlemen, Iraq is preserving her role of mediator between brethren. Do not place the government in a difficult position, by expressing your opinion in such a manner. If you like, let the President of the Chamber, in agreement with us, formulate the answer in a general courtesy terms of thanks and hopes, without touching the subject. That would be better."

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May 21 and 22, 1950.

The Prime Minister was followed by Dr. Abdul Majid Abbas, Izziddin Molla, Jalal Baban and Baha Uddin Nuri. The outcome was that a committee was formed for answering the telegram. It is being made up of Jalal Baban, Dr. Abdul Majid Abbas, Izziddin Molla and Husamiddin Jem'a. (Al-Umma. 5/22)

\* \* \*

LIWA AL-ISTIQLAL BACKS PRIME MINISTER.

Commenting on the intervention of the Prime Minister in the Chamber of Deputies regarding the answer to a cable received from the President of the Jordanian parliament, Liwa Al-Istiqlal (5/22) says that Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi has "well done," because any "taking side" would deprive Iraq of her "role of mediator", on which all the Arabs have pinned their hope. Mediation represents the "greatest service which can be rendered to spare the League the painful fate expecting it."

That is why, we regret that one of the cabinet members hurriedly made a statement, and that the deputies have converted parliament into a "forum where speakers compete for expressing their sympathy with and support to Jordan, aware that they are placing the government in a difficult position."

Indeed, the only constitutional way afforded to the "majority party" is that its representatives in the cabinet expose their opinion to the Council of Ministers. Then, if it is accepted, it would be the government's "official opinion"; if not, they have only to withdraw. This is the proper way instead of "inducing the government step by step into matters which it does not favor."

In fact, these statements are "doing harm to Iraq's reputation"; and the Iraqi negotiator is being placed in a "very weak position", because his commitments are questioned.

We hope that the government "adopt the view of its Prime Minister that of refraining from any partial action, lest Iraq lose her mediation position." We hope, adds the paper, that the reported trip of Minister of Interior Saleh Jabr be of a mediative nature, while we urge the government to issue an official announcement regarding this visit. (The said trip to Amman is being denied; see page 1 of press summary. Ed.)

\* \* \*

SADA AL-AHALI COMMENTS ON IRAQ'S ATTITUDE TO THE LEAGUE.

"When shall the Prime Minister be the head of the government?" asked Sada Al-Ahali (5/21) in its headline. It

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attitudes....

attitudes in Cairo and in Baghdad, which are "amazing and puzzling Iraqis". During the Arab League Council's session, he concurred with the other Arab states that no Arab states "could recognize the annexation of Eastern Palestine by Jordan", in a statement made in Cairo on April 12. When he returned in Baghdad, an official communique was issued on April 19 which skipped any reference to Jordan's intention of incorporation of Eastern Palestine. When he was attending the meetings of the AL Political Committee, he was in agreement with the other Arab states that Jordan had violated the League resolutions; and he did not oppose the recommendation to the AL Council of expelling Jordan, as he asked for an opportunity to consult with his government. But, while he was still in Cairo, one of the members of his cabinet issued a statement defending Jordan's action strongly and at length.

Back in Baghdad, there is not the slight indication that the Prime Minister "means to put an end to this political confusion, which is affecting Iraq's foreign policy in particular, and which has made the Iraqi delegations' opinions lose their value." The Arab policy of Iraq "seems to be influenced by persons outside the government or by hidden personal factors." The fact that the Prime Minister has maintained "silence" about his colleague's statement may be interpreted as "his being upholding it; and thus, Iraq loses her neutrality."

\*

Sharq Al-Adna radio, says Sada Al-Ahali (9/22), broadcast yesterday that the Iraqi Council of Ministers has decided to support Jordan. When it tried to check this report, it was confronted with "strong discretion." However, some deny that the matter has been discussed by the Council of Ministers; others say that it has been, but no decision was made, although the cabinet members are in agreement to support Jordan.

Anyhow, if the Iraqi cabinet has decided to support Jordan and to oppose her expulsion, besides it contradicts the position adopted by the Prime Minister at the AL Political Committee, it "means the end of the League, because most probably Egypt would quit the League and without her there cannot exist any League." If the League collapses Iraq would have to bear the main responsibility for it, because she could have carried on her mediation while supporting the League's decision. Indeed, without Jordan a "new area of fruitful cooperation" would begin, because she is the "main cause of the League's weakness."

Indeed, the collapse of the League would be in the interest of the Anglo-Americans. The League is hampering the implementation of their Middle Eastern projects, foremost the Mediterranean pact including Israel with the Arab League. Moreover, with no League, the Arab states would be in a weaker position in negotiating with Britain.

Therefore....

Towfiq As-Sumani, of Az-Zaman  
Jebran Melkon, of Al-Akhbar  
a representative of Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi  
Rafiq Sayid Isa, of Al-Umma

Rafiq Isa has declined the invitation for "personal reasons." (Al-Umma. 5/22)

\*

At the last meeting of the Council of Ministers, it decided to deprive 543 Jews of their Iraqi nationality. (Al-Umma. 5/22)

\*

An Iraqi military delegation is leaving today for Amman to attend the Jordanian Independence Day celebrations. Moreover, telephone contacts are going on between Baghdad and Amman to invite some present and former ministers, members of parliament, and a police delegation to attend these celebrations. (Ash-Shaab. 5/22)

\*

Yesterday, 339 Jews registered for emigration. However, the date of the departure of the second party of Jewish emigrants has not yet been appointed. (Ash-Shaab. 5/22)

\*

Irrigation DG Abdul Amir Al-Uzri would be leaving for Ankara for entering into negotiations with the Turkish authorities in accordance with the treaty of friendship. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

\*

Following the resignation of Moshhen Al-Hardan from parliament, the Ministry of Interior has slated the by-elections to fill the vacancy for July 1, 1950. (Ash-Shaab. 5/21)

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Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, May 23, 1950.

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INTERIOR MINISTER SALEH JABR LEAVES FOR AMMAN.

Al-Umma reports,

"H.E. Saleh Jabr, Minister of Interior, has accepted the official invitation extended to him by the Hashimite Government of Jordan to visit Amman on the occasion of the Jordanian Independence Day and the Army Day. His Excellency left early this morning by air for Amman where he will stay for a period probably not exceeding two days. He is expected to return next Thursday."

\* \* \*

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Sada Al-Ahali points out that Arab listeners are being afforded the choice among almost 20 radio stations which broadcast in Arabic. But, the most listened to stations are the Sharq Al-Adna radio and the BBC Arabic program. Both of them present the news with sidedness; such a line of action constitutes a danger because their news bulletins are the main source of information for the Arabic press.

\*

News agencies reports, says Al-Nabaa, indicate that Britain "favors" the maintenance of the Arab League. But, the U.S. and Britain like neither the Jews nor the Arabs; but, they use them as "instruments." How then, can the U.S. complain that the Arabs do not trust her and that the "pillars of peace" in the Middle East are being "shaken". Indeed, Britain and the U.S. has trusted Israel into the Middle East, splitting it and wanting now to bring its pieces together. The paper concludes, "The sieve which the Anglo-Americans want to hide behind is too big to hide the facts from the Arabs."

\* \* \*

SHORT NEWS.

The new law of industrial advancement was brought to the floor of the Chamber of Deputies; but, it was slightly amended.....

May 23, 1950.

amended and referred to a joint committee of both the Economic and the Financial Committees of the Chamber. As the law has been revised accordingly, it is due to go to the Chamber floor at a near meeting. This new law is to replace the one of 1929, which has become outdated. (Al-Umma)

\*

Dr. [Abdul Jabbar Rizali] has been appointed Assistant DG of Health, in replacement of Dr. [Omar Al-Ustouwani] who has been however retained in the same department. (Al-Umma)

\*

The Ministry of Interior has decided to suspend both Al-Hossoun and Al-Hawadith for a period of ten days. (Al-Umma)

\*

Early, this morning, an Iraqi press delegation left for Amman to attend the Independence Day celebrations. It is made up of:

Towfiq As-Sumani, proprietor of Az-Zaman  
Salman As-Safwani, proprietor of Al-Yaqdha  
Jebran Melkon, proprietor of Al-Akhbar  
Adel Awni, proprietor of Al-Hawadith  
Jihad Al-Ansari, representing Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi  
Mohsen Al-Mo'men, representing Al-Nabaa  
Rashid As-Safwani, representing Al-Islah  
Makki Aziz, proprietor of Al-Nazir  
Hisham Al-Dabbagh, proprietor of Al-Inqad. (Ash-Shaab)

\*

Following the receipt of the Lebanese proposals for a trade agreement between the two countries, they have been referred to a committee for study. The committee is made up of: Ali Jaffar, DG of Customs and Excise; Baher Faik, DG of Economic Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Saleh Kubba, Assistant Foreign Exchange Controller; Nadhem Az-Zahawi, DG of Imports; and Bakir Al-Hassani, Mumayiz of Commerce, Ministry of Economics. (Az-Zaman)

\*

Another committee has been formed and entrusted the task of studying the draft of the trade agreement to be concluded between Iraq and Iran. The committee has been made up of Ali Jaffar DG of Customs and Excise, Nadhem Az-Zahawi, DG of Imports; and Dr. Saleh Haidar, Assistant Governor of the National Bank. (Az-Zaman)

\*

Al-Alam.....

Al-Alam Al-Arabi quotes a story published by a Damascus paper that following the accusation made in parliament that "some" persons in the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs are spying for an "Eastern" state, it is indicated that the state referred to is Turkey. An investigation committee has been formed, under the chairmanship of the acting DG of Police, of three administrative officials. Two officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been arrested.

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May 23, 1950.

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DAILY REVIEW  
of the DO NOT DETACH

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B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq.

Wednesday, May 24, 1950.

\* \* \* \* \*

RUSH TO AMMAN.

According to Sharq Al-Adna, Interior Minister Saleh Jabr, who left yesterday morning for Amman, accompanied by Yahya Qassim, editor-owner of Ash-Shaab newspaper, has been received in audience by King Abdullah upon his arrival. (Ash-Shaab)

\*

On the occasion of the Army and Independence Day celebrations in Amman, the British Supreme Chief of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East has arrived in the Jordanian capital. General Riley is expected today. Saleh Jabr, Iraq Minister of Interior, is already there. The France-Presse correspondent in Amman says that all this "gives rise to the belief that political consultations covering the situation of the Arab world in general will be held here."

Furthermore, the Jerusalem radio announced that a Syrian military delegation has arrived in Amman; it is made up of the Chief of Staff, his assistant and a staff member. Besides, a delegation from Lebanon has arrived too. (Az-Zaman)

\* \* \*

TRIBUTE TO KING ABDULLAH.

"The Man of the Hour in Arab Politics, H.M. King Abdullah Ibn Hussain Ibn Ali." Under this caption-headline, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi carries King Abdullah's picture with a praising editorial.

"King Abdullah," affirms the paper, "is not a new hero in the arena of nationalism. He was born in the cradle of the Arab renaissance. He has become famous even before most of the existing Arab states came into being... In the struggle for the Arab nation's rights, he was the envied knight and the right hand of his late father..."

"Today, as Amman celebrates its Army and Independence Day, all the Arabs look to this growing Arab force, which, we hope, will increase in power and will realize the nation's hopes under

the.....

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May 24, 1950.

the victorious Hashimite banner which has been lifted in the sky of national dreams by the arm of Hashimite King Abdullah ibn Hussain ibn Ali."

\* \* \*

#### RENEWED CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEW PRESS LAW.

As the new press law has been forwarded to parliament for enactment, Sada Al-Ahali and Liwa Al-Istiqlal renew the campaign of criticisms against it. (Ed.)

\*

Faik As-Samerrai, in what seems to be the first article of a series to be published by Liwa Al-Istiqlal, affirms that the new law overlooks the "antecedent right" of present editor-owners of newspapers, because article 48 provides that they should confirm themselves to the requirements of the new law in a period of ten days from its coming into force. Besides, para 1 of article 9 authorizes the Minister of Interior to cancel a newspaper license if during a period of three months it is not being published regularly. The law is branded in the headline as "a new backward move."

\*

Denouncing the new press law as a "deadly blow to the freedom of opinion", Sada Al-Ahali says, "Such a challenge to the public opinion and such an overt antagonism to the popular will indicate an uncontrolled desire for proclaiming an overt dictatorship, for strengthening reaction and for eliminating any voice which might call for the rights of the majority of the people, which are being disregarded by the ruling class."

\* \* \*

#### PRIME MINISTER'S MAY 22 STATEMENT TO REUTER COMMENTED.

Commenting on Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi's statement made on the eve of Interior Minister Saleh Jabr's departure to Amman to the Reuter correspondent in Baghdad, that Iraq is striving to mediate the dispute between Jordan and the League, Al-Alam Al-Arabi says that it has "dispelled part of the obscurity characterizing the policy of the present government regarding the League and Jordan, and has removed part of the disquietude caused the statements of some of the Ministers of State." However, the paper does not deem it quite comprehensive because he did not state whether or not "his government is ready to go along with Jordan if she insists on refusing to regard the annexed part of Palestine as a trust."

SHORT NEWS.

During the absence of Interior Minister Saleh Jabr, Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi will take charge of the Interior Portfolio. (Al-Umma)

\*

Syrian Minister of Justice Feidhi Al-Atasi has tendered his resignation. It is believed in Damascus that Premier Khalid Al-Adhem when back in the capital would have to resign. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

\*

In an exclusive Damascus story published by Liwa Al-Istiqlal it is reported that the Lebanese, Syrian and Iraq Prime Ministers would meet at the end of the instant at a Lebanese summer resort. They would review the consultations which Syrian Premier Khalid Al-Adhem and Lebanese Premier Riad Al-Solh held respectively in Riyadh, and which Iraq Interior Minister Saleh Jabr is holding in Amman.

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Embassy of the U.S.A.  
Baghdad, Iraq.

Thursday, May 25, 1950.

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THE 9TH SHA'BAN, OR "NAHDA" DAY.

Today is the 9th of Sha'ban. With the exception of Al-Alam Al-Arabi, all the papers devote their editorial to the occasion, carrying on their front page the picture of King Hussain and his sons. (Ed.)

\*

Al-Umma: "Today, the Arabs welcome the dawn of the 9th of Sha'ban which marks the firing of the first shot inaugurating the era of Jihad by Hussain, so as to learn out of their experiences how to overcome their dark present wherein they have lost Palestine and to go forward once again after gathering their strength in order to complete the mission initiated by their Hashimite savior and his great sons by their Great Revolt..."

\*

Ash-Shaab: "Every year, the anniversary of the Revolt does not pass without our wishing that conditions improve. But, the next anniversary comes and conditions are the same if not worse. As long as wishes are useless, we do not make any this time..."

\*

Liwa Al-Istiqlal: "These courageous men who inspired by their nationalism went forward did not think that their very allies (Britain) who have made them pledges would not keep them and that the following period would witness the worst treason (Sykes-Picot agreement)... The shameful stain shall not be obliterated from the forefront of the British policy, because of its leading him (King Hussain) to his exile while being still its ally... The series of catastrophes led to the greatest of them all, that is the cutting of Palestine from the Arab body..."

"...Whatever the proponents of discord do, Syro-Iraqi union shall be achieved sooner or later, because it still symbolizes Arab ambition inspired by the sacrifices being made since their Great Revolt..."

Sada Al-Ahali.....

Sada Al-Ahali: "Indeed, this day which we celebrate as a national holiday is the darkest one of the last 35 years. On this day, we find ourselves facing the worst fate of any nation. Palestine has been lost because of British treason... Moreover, Britain is striving to tie the Arab states with more chains and to undermine the Arab League, which is exposed to collapse as the result of direct British maneuvers..."

"...The great sacrifices in lives and properties have been to no avail because of foreign ambitions and of the 'allies' not keeping their pledges..."

"...We should know our real enemy and the clique which has helped the foreigner to bring about our catastrophe, squandering Hussain's and the Arabs' Revolt..."

\* \* \*

#### SHORT NEWS.

According to the "appropriate authorities", the negotiations for the World Bank loan have been completed, and the agreement would be signed as soon as Iraq would enact the necessary legislation.

As for the financial negotiations with Britain, they have reached their "last phase." (Al-Umma)

\*

The Council of Ministers has approved "in principle" the draft of the Indo-Iraqi trade agreement. It has been decided to send a copy of the Iraqi Legation in New Delhi for submission to the Indian government for comment. (Al-Umma)

\*

Around 10:00 p.m., last night, the second party of Jewish emigrants, numbering 200 persons, left for Cyprus by air. (Al-Umma)

The formalities of 219 Jewish emigrants have been completed. 118 are from Amarah and 101 from Baghdad. They were taken to the Airport; but until 10:00 p.m., no plane left the Airport. However, one aircraft is expected to leave carrying on board 90 persons; and another one is due to leave this morning. (Ash-Shaab)

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The.....



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May 25, 1950.

The Ministry of Finance was informed some months ago that second-hand revenue stamps were being cleaned and resold. Consequently, 18 persons were arrested for investigation. Yesterday, the Criminal Court of Baghdad issued its verdict, releasing 9 of them for lack of evidence, condemning three to 6 months' prison or a ID.100 fine and one to two months or a ID.10 fine, and referring three of them to the Court of Sessions.

The fraud of this gang has cost the government for the last three years between ID. 20,000 and 40,000. (Ash-Shaab)

\*

It has been learned in Damascus that the French government had informed its legation in the Syrian capital that the conference of the three Foreign Ministers has led to the accord that the U.S. shall take charge of providing arms to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, Britain to Iraq and Jordan, and France to Syria and Lebanon. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

\*

Interior Minister Saleh Jabr is expected today in Baghdad from Amman. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

\*\*\*\*\*

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AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

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May 16, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 16, 1950.

BEIRUT(Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

Commenting editorially on the desire of a group of Arabs to turn toward the Soviet Union, this paper declares:

"We the Arabs are daily demonstrating that we are acting like children in the Arab policy we have followed since the birth of the Arab League and in the international policy we have adopted since the establishment of the United Nations Organization...We are like a feather blown in the wind vis-a-vis the two currents that are storming the United Nations Organization.."

The editorial then goes on to say:

"Some of us say that we must turn toward the Soviet bloc after having lost the hopes we have pinned on the Western bloc. But do we all of us say this? What is the use of trying to conclude separate alliances, with the result that we would be divided on the international policy after having been divided on the Arab policy?"

"Wouldn't it be better for us to settle our differences in the heart of the Arab League once and for all so that we might be able to make alliance with one of the two blocs and so that our alliance might be on an equal footing and not on that of the follower and the followed?"

"Indeed, we must settle our differences and then chose an ally from the two blocs. We do not know if there is a single Arab who hesitates to make alliance with the Western democracies regardless of what some of us say in time of danger and foolishness. When have foolishness and anger been associated with sound policy?"

"Organized charity must begin at the Arab home. This charity must be in the form of Arab co-operation and solidarity vis-a-vis the two common enemies: Israel and Communism. Otherwise, the Arabs must realize that the Western and Eastern blocs will not respect them so long as they continue their shameful differences."

- 2 -

AL-HAYAT (Shia-Moslem, independent)

editorializes on the marriages of the two Egyptian and the Iranian Princesses against the will of their families, and on the great interest the entire East is showing in these events. The editorial points out that the marriages of the three Princesses in this manner are a natural result of the social developments that have taken place in the East following its close contacts with the industrial West. It continues:

"Thus the family has begun to collapse in the East. This collapse will continue in the future at an accelerated pace. He who organizes his life on Western bases and gives son and daughter education derived from the West, will reach the end already reached by the Western family. Therefore, it should not surprise us to hear that Princess Fatima Pahlevi has become Mrs. Miller, Princess Fa'iqah Mrs. Sadiq and Princess Fathiya Mrs. Ghali. These are new phenomena in relation to ourselves. But they will shortly become natural and permanent phenomena in our social life. We should not blame our children for this trend. It is the fathers who have acquired Western civilization with its defects. It is they who have sent their children to schools to learn the essence of Western thought. It is they who have accepted for themselves - as men - the Western way of life. How could they expect their women and daughters to be different from them? It was said of old: 'He who sows wind reaps a storm.'"

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition and organ of Lebanese Phalange)

criticizes the Chamber of Deputies for having passed the gambling law. It says this law will have a devastating influence on the people and appeals to the responsible authorities to abide by the will of the people and annul this law.

AD-DIYAR (Greek-Orthodox, pre-government)

criticizes Egypt for its campaign against Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine. The paper says it is immaterial whether Arab Palestine is annexed to Jordan, Egypt or any other Arab country so long as it does not fall in Jewish hands. It declares in connection with reports that Egypt is trying, through its campaign against Jordan, to bargain with the British in order to obtain its national demands: "Is a fight between the Arabs the last arrow in Egypt's bag for bargaining with Britain? Is it not enough for Egypt to turn toward the other camp in order to cause the Westerners to hurry and appease it? If its turning toward the Soviets would not affect the British and the Americans could it possibly affect them by its opposition as well as the opposition of the Arab states to the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan?" The paper then says that the Arab peoples believe in the mobilization of their resources and armies whether the arms come from the United States, Britain or the

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Soviet Union for warding off the Zionist danger.  
It concludes:

"The Arab responsible officials must realize that mere statements threatening to abandon the Western bloc and to make alliance with the Soviets would not be enough to intimidate Britain and America. These might harm the Arabs if not attended by actual and organized steps which would make it clear to the Western powers that the Arabs chose them or their enemies on the basis of general interests and not individuals who place their personal interests above all other considerations.."

AN-NAHAR (Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

writes that the Arab League Political Committee yesterday concluded its debates on the question of the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan by regarding Jordan as having violated the League's decisions, and that Iraq's and Yemen's opposition has not satisfied Egypt. The editorial then goes on to say that "The Political Committee has again proved that it always yields to the fait accompli, although the fait accompli this time is Arab and useful. We hope that Jordan will not regard the Committee's decision, which has come as a victory for it, as permitting it to violate the decisions of the League and to consecrate the unilateral policy it is following." Stating that the Lebanese delegation should have assumed a neutral stand on the issue, the paper regrets Egypt's behavior toward the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan and hopes that the interval between now and June - the date of the next meeting of the League - will afford opportunities for negotiations to clear the atmosphere and save the League from its present impasse.

AR-RUHWAD (Maronite, pro-government)

attacks the National Bloc Party for its recent manifesto censuring the present Lebanese government.

AL-HADAF (Shia-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist)

supports Egypt's stand on the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan and says in part:

"Egypt has so far demonstrated an obstinacy that has won the admiration of the world by challenging the Anglo-American pressure and making it understand that the Arabs are free in their policy and in their international direction... The Arab peoples who support Egypt and this wise policy want the Political Committee against yielding and surrendering, and demand that Jordan be sacrificed on the altar of public interest - if its expulsion constitutes a sacrifice - regardless of what it will do after the expulsion...The Arabs who base their survival or extinction on the recovery of Palestine... know how to save Jordan

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and its people from the executioners who are obstructing its way and the way of the whole Arab cause."

TELEGRAPH (Maronite, opposition)

publishes a long article by one Hashim Amin who criticizes the Anglo-Americans, the Arab governments and the Arab League and praises the Soviet Union. The writer welcomes the new trend toward the Soviet Union and says in part:

"The Arab states' policy which antagonizes the Soviet Union is a crime against the Arab peoples themselves. The only relations between the Arab peoples and the Soviet union are those based on human progressive principles that have no signs of the devils of trusts, monopolies, merchants of blood and executioners of peoples - relations based on the interests of peoples for promoting peace and sound democracy."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1A

May 23, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE  
TO THE DIRECTOR

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 23, 1950

439

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Husni, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

dwells on the subject of the disruption of the Lebano-Syrian economic relations and asserts that it has been fighting this disruption not on a sentimental or improvised basis but in the light of facts and figures and of the interests of the two countries. The editorial then mentions the meeting which representatives of the Lebanese and Syrian press held at Dummur, Damascus, on May 20. The press representatives discussed the present Lebano-Syrian economic relations and reached the conclusion that the economic separation "was a summer cloud which will soon be dispersed" and that "what God has united can not be separated by man." Having realized the benefits of co-operation and the harms of separation, the newsmen resolved to pave the way for a meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian Premiers and to clear the atmosphere for them so that they might be able to reach the desired understanding. The editorial then concludes:

"In saluting the Syrian press, we assure it that the Lebanese press will honor the promise it made at Dummur and will endeavor to disperse 'the summer clouds' that have overcast the skies of the two countries for the past seventy days."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Murad, Shia-Moslem, independent)

writes that reports from the various Arab capitals indicate that the Jordan problem is becoming increasingly complicated and that the decisions of the Arab League Political Committee have created endless disputes. The editorial then goes on to say that

"The Arabs will support the League if it expels any state because of its contacts with the Jews. But Jordan's expulsion, because it is following a federation policy at a time when Arab thinkers are fighting regionalism, will not be given a positive reception."

"On the other hand, Jordan's expulsion will not, in its consequences, stop at the expulsion limit. Arab circles began, following the division of Palestine, to make one thousand and one speculations as to what would follow the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan. You can't find a single body in the Arab world today which is able to face the future with confidence and understanding. For this reason, voices have been raised in Syria protesting the expulsion decision and expressing fears of its consequences. Egypt is expecting some contrary to the results Egypt is expecting from its measure."

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AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

emphasizes the importance of the teachers in Lebanon and appeals to the Minister of National Education to give sympathetic consideration to the demands of the government teachers "who are primarily responsible for the country's fate in its new generation, in its history, in its progress, in its radiant face and in its sound and strong structure.."

In a second editorial the paper criticizes the present Election Law and demands its immediate revision on the basis of small election units.

SAWT AL-AHRAR (Editor: *Chamoun* 739 (Camille Yusuf Shamun, Maronite, opposition))

regards as highly important the meeting the Lebanese and Syrian newsmen held May 20 at Dumar, Damascus, in which they decided to clear the atmosphere of the Lebano-Syrian economic relations preliminary to the meeting which will shortly take place between the Premiers of the two countries for resuming the economic relations. It declares in part:

"The Lebanese and Syrian newsmen laid down the first stone in the structure of the discussions and negotiations which will begin tomorrow or the day after. We wish to believe that the Premiers of the two governments will in turn lay down the second stone and that they will not leave the place of meeting before agreeing on the resumption of the economic relations in the light of the interests of the two countries."

AL-HADAF (Editor: *Osseiran* 739 (Muhaair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist))

also hails the Dumar meeting and says that it was "a definite proof that the separation between the two countries will not last despite all the causes which brought it about."

AR-RUWAD (Editor: *439* (Bishars Maroun, Maronite, pro-government))

writes in connection with the popular demand for the revision of the present Election Law that Lebanon should not be less free and democratic than Egypt and Turkey and that the responsible authorities must not "leave the Election Law oscillating between revision and non-revision to the last moment." The paper then says that the government should ask Parliament to give its final decision on the subject and should assure the Lebanese people that they could freely and safely express their views in the next election.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1A

May 24, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE T   
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 24, 1950.BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nauli, 439, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

This paper's editor says that he will be leaving for Amman, Jordan, immediately after he finishes writing today's editorial. He is going to Amman upon the invitation of King Abdullah where he will closely study the Jordan and the Palestine questions in order to report their developments to the Arab world.

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, 439, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

In asking who is responsible for the supervision of TAPLINE and whether the conscience of the appropriate authorities is satisfied with the actual supervision imposed on this firm, this paper again raises the question of TAPLINE's agreement with Lebanon. It wonders whether the Communications Directorate at the Public Works Ministry has read the Syrian agreement with TAPLINE, compared it with the Lebanese agreement and realized the difference between them. It reminds the Communications Directorate that Lebanon's interest demands that the agreement be revised in a manner which would insure benefits equal to those Syria is deriving from TAPLINE. The paper then goes on to say:

"The company might be prepared to grant Lebanon all its rights but it is waiting for an explanation of these rights. Why doesn't the Communications Directorate explain these rights?.....We have often invited the Government's attention to this important subject but the government departments have maintained silence and have assumed a sympathetic attitude toward TAPLINE...Therefore, if the government continues to be inactive, we would explain, on behalf of the Communications Directorate, the rights that are being lost because of the lack of supervision and of the failure to revise the agreement in a manner which would insure for Lebanon what the Syrian agreement is insuring for the Syrians!"

AD-DIYAR criticizes the UN Conciliation Commission for its failure to make public the Jewish reply to its note proposing the creation of Arab-Jewish committees for settling pending Palestinian issues. The paper says that world public opinion is already acquainted with the Arab reply which stipulates that the Jews proclaim their readiness to accept the return of the refugees to Palestine. It then claims that the Conciliation Commission published the Arab reply with the consent of the Arab governments while it is keeping the Jewish reply secret. For this reason, the paper continues, a number of Arab governments has asked for the text of the Jewish reply in order to know how to act toward



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Commission is showing partiality toward the Jews and that it is attempting to put the Arabs into an impasse, the paper concludes:

"It is better for the Commission to proclaim its failure, to point out the cause of this failure and to publish details on the Jewish position than to follow these crooked methods which will not bring it one step nearer the desired goal."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

reports that the Military Court yesterday passed the following sentences on the persons accused of having participated in the attempt on the life of Premier Riadh as-Solh:

- ✓ Tawfiq Hamdan - capital punishment
- ✓ Ely Rashid Khalifa (fugitive) capital punishment
- ✓ Joseph Haddad (fugitive) penal servitude for life
- ✓ Kamil Hassan (fugitive) six years
- ✓ Adib Rashid Abu Salman (fugitive) penal servitude for life
- ✓ Camille al-Jada' - one year
- ✓ Aja al-Muhtar - two years
- ✓ Anis Abi Rafi' - one year.

The Court also sentenced Muhammad al-Baalbeki with imprisonment for two and a half months and with suspending his paper KUL SHAI' for the same period. The execution of death sentences is subject to the approval of the President of the Republic.

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

complains that the government is again repeating the refrain of tribal settlements while the blood of the victims that have fallen in the Yammuna-Aqura incident has not even dried. The paper deplors the lack of security in Lebanon and demands that "this State be built on one fixed principle, the principle of a just and equitable law and not the principle of leadership and feudalism..."

AL-HADAF (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government, extreme nationalist)

welcomes the statements a number of Arab statesmen and diplomats has recently made regarding the necessity of observing neutrality toward the Western and the Eastern blocs. It says that while Dr. Charles Malik's pronouncements are still reverberating in the world, putting the responsibility for the present international anxiety on US policy alone, the Egyptian Ambassador to Russia who has just returned to Cairo told AL-AHRAM newspaper that Russia was interested in the success of liberation movements, that it was a natural ally of peoples combating imperialism and that it did not seek alliances but it is anxious to ensure its safety and to uproot imperialism everywhere. The paper which fully endorses the Egyptian Ambassador's advice to the Arabs to observe neutrality,

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expresses satisfaction with "this new trend which is inevitable for our liberation from the clutches of imperialism and from its ally, the state of the Zionist gangsters.."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1A

May 25, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO   
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 25, 1950.BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

editorializes on the passage of three years this day since the election of the present Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and declares in part:

"They falsified the will of the Lebanese people this day three years ago, thus spreading anxiety and turning this Chamber, which was elected by their will and not by the will of the people, into an obedient tool in their hands. They suppressed the parliamentary system and destroyed the bridge which should have connected the people with the government and turned it into a bridge which is crossed by the government only... Thus the May 25, 1947 deputies became the representatives of the executive authority and not the representatives of the people.... The anniversary of the May 25, 1947 tragedy will not make us forget our duty this time. We shall hurry to the ballot boxes, even if the forces of tyranny, of the oppression of liberties, of coercion and of the so-called iron order should be mustered against us..."

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(Muhammad Amin Doghan, a member of BEIRUT'S editorial staff, writes that Quaker delegates arrived from the US in Beirut two months ago on their way to Iraq to investigate charges made by American Jews that their co-religionists were being persecuted in Baghdad. Doghan states that the Quakers were joined in Beirut by Mr. James Sutton, instructor of English at the American College for Girls. Doghan quotes Mr. Sutton as saying that the minorities were well-treated in Iraq and that after staying five days in Iraq

"It became clear to us that the charges made by American Jews about massacres and persecution of Jews in Iraq were nothing but evil and unfounded propaganda."

Doghan, who praises the Quakers and Mr. Sutton, says that the latter made it clear to him that the Quakers' report which was submitted to the Society will be kept secret. Doghan wenders in conclusion:

"If the report had supported the accusations of the American Jews would it have been kept secret. I swear, No."

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

features on the occasion of the third anniversary of the election of the present Chamber of Deputies a large Lebanese flag, flown at half mast inside a black

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"The Flag which was lowered on May 25 and is still being lowered in mourning for stabbed liberty and murdered honor."

The paper devotes two editorials to this subject both of which severely attack the government and the Chamber. One of the editorials appears under the signature of Pierre Gemayel, head of the Lebanese Phalange Party, at the end of which he asserts:

"On the May 25, 1950 anniversary we find nothing better to say than what we have repeated time after time: The deceased that was not buried was never and shall never be alive. Present and future events demand that the nation has its legitimate representatives. Earth and heaven are oppressed by the continued falsehood.."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

editorializes on the present Syrian Cabinet crisis. It says that the recent resignation of Fidi al-Atassi is again reminding the Syrians that the position of the cabinet needs immediate treatment. The paper continues:

"It appears to us that a reconciliation between the various Syrian political and non-political elements is impossible on party bases. The attempts that are currently being made behind the curtain to reconcile the opposing leaders are nothing but a temporary settlement for effecting the Constitution....On the other hand, Arab issues are once more looming on the Syrian horizon. The events that have succeeded one another during the past six months and the results reached by the Arab League on the fictitious collective security and the Jordan questions, all these events impose on the Syrian elements the necessity of reconsidering Syria's Arab policy before it brings bad consequences to them and to the Arab cause. This policy can not be determined except by a strong Syrian government. If such a government can not be formed for internal reasons, would Arab reasons replace it? Do the Syrian statesmen and others realize what the future hides in store for them and for the Arab cause?"

AL-HAYAT publishes a picture of the late King Hussain on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the proclamation by King Hussain of the "great Arab revolution for liberating the Arab countries and forming a great Arab state." The paper says that after reviewing the past thirty five years one sees how the King's supporters have conspired against the cause with the foreigner "whose will has become our constitutions." It continues:

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"Israel is born on the back of our regionalisms and independences. We are like a commodity in the hands of the foreigner, without security in our present and future. All events point to us that we have followed the wrong path and that the only outlet from the present impasse is for the Arabs to go back to universal unity, to the principle on which the Arab cause, the Arab revolution and the Arab awakening have been based."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

sharply criticizes the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and says in part on the occasion of its third birthday anniversary:

"New storms have blown on this East where strange parliamentary traditions are centered which do not respect election liberties and which do not want to understand them as the British and other freedom loving peoples do. These new storms have uprooted in certain parts of the East some of the Eastern parliamentary traditions. We witnessed, several days ago, the fall of the traditions in Turkey...It is our hope that our old parliamentary traditions will not be stronger and more enduring than the Turkish traditions! It is our hope that the storm will develop and uproot the May 25 Chamber with its mother and father. It is our hope that this monster babe will be sterile..and we pray that heaven will make it barren."

In commenting on the conferences the US, British and French Foreign Ministers have recently held in Paris and London, this paper writes that according to press reports, that have not been confirmed by official communiques, the United States, which is interested in Greece, Turkey and Iran, has allowed its ally Britain to continue its traditional interests in the Arab East to co-ordinate the latter's position with the exigencies of Western defense. The paper then goes on to say:

"This is an inevitable result of the present situation in the Arab East and of US reluctance to bear additional obligations...This result must be taken into account in every new plan for political action in Cairo, Baghdad, Amman and indeed in Damascus and Beirut!"

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

whose editor is now in Amman upon the invitation of King Abdullah, carries the following article on Soviet press comments on the Arab League as reported by the Lebanese Legation in Moscow to the Foreign Office here:

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"The Foreign Office has received a report from the Lebanese Legation in Moscow containing Soviet Press comments on the Arab League on the occasion of the meeting of the Arab League Political Committee. We understand that the report summarizes the Soviet press comments as follows:

- 1 - The Arab states are divided into two camps: One pro-British, comprising Iraq and Jordan; the other pro-American, comprising Saudi Arabia which was later joined by Egypt and Syria. With regard to Lebanon and Yemen, they are the only two countries that have so far not yielded to any domination.
- 2 - The Arab League revealed its face through the decisions it adopted during its last meeting regarding the conclusion of a common defense and economic co-operation treaty between the Arab states along the line of the Atlantic pact and the Benelux countries. This took place with the approval of the British and the Americans who aims at tying the Arab League to the Athens-Ankara-Tehran axis and at creating a strong buttress therefrom in the offensive Mediterranean bloc. It may be mentioned that everything connected with the defense pact was discussed in Cairo during the presence there of General Collins, the Chief of Staff of the American Army and of a number of British diplomats.
- 3 - The resolution the Political Committee adopted supported Spain's demand for the abolition of the UN decision stipulating that the member powers withdraw their diplomatic representatives from Madrid is not less significant. The Committee adopted this resolution at the behest of the American government.
- 4 - There is no better proof of the subjugation of the Arab League to the Anglo-Americans than the resolution the Political Committee adopted in connection with the British attack on Yemen last fall. British planes bombed a Yemenite fortress along the frontiers in an attempt to occupy it by force. The Political Committee could not find a better resolution than the one which suggested to the Yemenite delegation to resume negotiations with England for the sake of reaching a peaceful settlement."

ASH-SHABQ (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

writes that it has received from the Partisans of Peace society in Lebanon, which includes a large number of personalities including engineer Antun Thabit, Archbishop Elia Karam, Dr. George Hanna and Radhwan al-Shahhal, a book entitled "The Peoples' struggle for outlawing atomic weapons." The book contains an appeal from the Stockholm Congress of the Partisans of Peace which regards the power that uses atomic weapons as a war criminal, as well as excerpts from statements made by famous scientists, religious leaders, and men of letters.

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**AL-HADAF** (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government, extreme nationalist)

editorializes on the celebrations that are now being held in Amman on the occasion of the Army and Independence Day. It says in part:

"If we have anything to ask from King Abdullah while reviewing his Army this morning, it is that this Army be Arab and for the Arabs and that it should not be less zealous in supporting the Arab League than the others, headed by Egypt which said yesterday through its Foreign Minister that it will honor its pledge and will exert utmost efforts to keep the Arab League and foster co-operation between itself and the Arab states.....We wish also that King Abdullah will think long before saying his say on the June 12 meeting of the League, because history's judgment will be severe on those who pass death sentence on the Arab League.."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 26, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO   
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 26, 1950.BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

splashes across its front page the following headline of the three-power declaration on arms and security in the Near East:

"Twenty-four hours following visits of Ministers Plenipotentiary to Premier Solh: Grave Anglo-American declaration: 1 - Three great powers oppose armament race between Arabs and Israel; 2 - Three powers receive assurances from Arab states and Israel that they do not intend committing aggressive acts; 3 - Three powers oppose use of force and threats between any one of these states. The three powers warn."

The paper then publishes the Arabic text of the declaration as released by the USIS (it says an almost identical text was released by the British Information Service also) and makes the following comments:

"Undoubtedly, this declaration has its importance and gravity. It re-affirms the keen desire of the three powers to maintain the status quo in the Middle East and ultimately the existence of Israel. It also demands that the Arab states refrain from committing any aggressive act against Israel, thus paving the way for peace with it. It also halts Israel at its limit so that it would not interfere with any one of the Arab states in the future."

"Undoubtedly, the declaration openly refers to the great powers' opposition to the violation by force of any frontier of the frontiers of the Arab states and of Israel. This means that the great powers shall resist any expansion, even if such expansion is between the Arab states themselves. Political and parliamentary circles are evincing interest in this declaration and are interpreting it in various ways."

In reporting Mr. Pinkerton's visit to Fu'ad Amman at the Foreign Office yesterday this paper comments:

"We understand that the conversation during this meeting covered the political issues which the Minister discussed the day before with Premier Solh."

"Our correspondent states that the American Minister informed Amman of the statement the USIS has released concerning the talks of the Foreign Ministers of the three Great Powers."

"With regard to the proposed Lebano-American treaty,



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AL-HAYAT (Editor: Karil Muruwan, Shia-Moslem, independent)

prominently features the three-power declaration under the following banner headline on its front page:

"Britain, France and America announces policy stabilizing peace in East. Three great powers arm Arab states and Israel and oppose use of force between these states under threat of punishment."

In its editorial, the paper refers to King Abdullah's expression of hope, during the celebration of Jordan's Army Day, "for the realization of the country's unity." It says the King "naturally meant unity with Syria." The paper then goes on to say:

"The Greater Syria project is not new. King Abdullah has been advocating it for many years in countless speeches and pronouncements. The difference between his present cautious reference and his past open references to the project is that Jordan's position has changed. After having been an arid desert settled by three hundred thousand bedouins, Jordan has now grown into an extensive kingdom including more than one million inhabitants and supported by Britain now as in the past.

"These facts must be noted in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq in a serious and practical manner. It is not enough for the Political Committee to decide on the separation of Jordan in order to solve the problem. The separation decision is, in relation to these powers, like the ostrich which hides its head in the sand!

"AL-HAYAT has been at the head of those who have urged the Arab states voluntarily to return to the federation principles on the ground that this is the only means for arresting the continuous Arab deterioration. But ignorance - aren't egotism, ambition and personal politics utter ignorance? - has prevented this, with the result that we have been overcome by events.

"Today, Jordan events are giving an eloquent lesson to those who do not want to understand. Will they understand before the loss of time?"

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

publishes on its front page the text of the three-power declaration as released by the USSR and the British Information Service under the following banner headline:

"Open Western warning to Arab states and Israel. America, Britain and France will immediately intervene upon outbreak of hostilities in Middle East. Three Powers supply Arabs and Jews with arms necessary for safeguarding security after two sides promise not to commit aggressive acts against one another."

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In reporting foreign reaction to the declaration, the paper says

"With regard to the Arab countries, their official quarters have not yet commented on the declaration. It is believed that they will maintain silence because the declaration will obstruct any attempt for recovering Palestine in the future."

AN-NAHAR reports that the opposition parties met yesterday at the house of Kasrawan al-Khasin to "commemorate the tragedy" of the May 25, 1947 Chamber of Deputies. Delegates from the following parties attended the meeting: The National Bloc; the National Liberation Bloc; the Progressive Socialist Party; the Lebanese Union Party (Phalange); Nida' al-Qawmi (the National Call) Party; the Republican Union Party; and the Ghassasina Party. The delegates made speeches in which they denounced the Chamber and emphasized that the "May 25 tragedy" must not be repeated. Kasrawan al-Khasin, leading member of the National Bloc (Edde's) at whose invitation the parties assembled, delivered the principal speech in which he enumerated the difficulties from which Lebanon is suffering and said in effect that all Lebanon's ills arise from the fact that the present authorities have falsified the people's will by the May 25, 1947 Chamber and destroyed democracy because of their love for chairs "to which they cling just as the famished cling to leaves of bread." Therefore, he urged the opposition parties to exert their utmost efforts for saving Lebanon and its people and for preventing the repetition of the tragedy "which we are commemorating today."

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

headlines London despatches on the three-power declaration across its front page in heavy type as follows:

"Grave declaration issued by Britain, America and France concerning despatch of arms to Arab states and Israel. Strengthening defense of Middle East and preventing violation of provisions of permanent armistice between Arabs and Jews."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

writes editorially that according to Amman despatches, the Lebanese government has invited Salih Jabur, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister who is now on a special mission in Amman, to visit Lebanon. The paper states that Salih Jabur's presence in Amman is due to the fact that he is endeavoring to compose the differences between Jordan and Egypt and to save the Arab League from collapse. It then praises Salih Jabur as follows:

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"Salih Jabur enjoys a high position everywhere, a high position imposed by his past. He is the only Arab statesman, yes the only Arab statesman, who has confronted the street and has not cared for cheap popularity. He extended his hand to Britain in return for terms which he felt would realize the aspirations of the nationalists everywhere. The ignorant of the street revolted against him and shattered the Portsmouth treaty and with it hope for victory in Palestine! Salih Jabur lost the Premiership and bore the pain of doubt in his aims and nationalism. He tasted the bitterness of the attack his people waged against him - they were motivated by a traitorous enemy and by ignorance which is more destructive than enemies and treason. But time changed swiftly and the Arab cause developed swiftly too... Those who accused Salih Jabur of treason are now realizing their terrible mistakes - the Arab world paid the cost of the mistakes with the blood of its heart. They have realized that the man whom they accused is farsighted and highly nationalistic. So they have rallied to him, hoping that he will find the new solution.

"We welcome Salih Jabur and hope that he will succeed in his mission.."

AR-RUWAD (Editor: Bishara Maroun, Maronite, pro-government)

splashes the following headline of London reports on the three-power declaration across its front page:

"Arab states notified of decision of Foreign Ministers of great powers on supplying them with arms. Three Western powers issue joint declaration on their agreement to co-ordinate their policy in Middle East and to supply them with Arms. Assurances from Arab states and Israel that they will not use arms for aggression: United Press Agency reports: Three Foreign Ministers agree in London Conference on spheres of influence: Lebanon and Syrian coast under French influence."

AL-HADAF (Shia-Moslem, pro-government), AL-BAYRAQ (Maronite, opposition), TELAGRAPH (Maronite, opposition) denounce the Chamber of Deputies on the occasion of the third anniversary of its election. AL-HADAF writes that all the Lebanese people, regardless of their political faith, regard the May 25 Chamber "as a blot of shame and infamy on the forehead of Lebanon."

AMERICAN LEGATION  
BEIRUT

25X1A

May 27, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO   
DO NOT DETACH

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 27, 1950

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent  
carries the following editorial on the three-power  
declaration on arms and security in the Near East:

"At long last they have decided to arm the  
Arabs - with Israel, of course. This is  
what the 'Big Three' proclaimed in their  
declaration published in AL-HAYAT of yesterday.  
The people have read it with a broad smile,  
saying: When has Israel needed this generous  
permission to arm itself? From where did  
it get the arms the Jews used in the Palestine  
'war'? From where are equipments pouring into  
Israel today?

"Truly, the Western declaration on arms in the  
Middle East is strange in its letter and spirit.  
What do they expect from it? We have not for-  
gotten that they withheld arms from the Arab states  
when arms flowed from America by air, sea and land  
for the Jews. What is the purpose, therefore,  
of arming us?

"Our greatest enemy is Israel. Yet they offer us  
arms and then install themselves as our trustees  
and begin this trusteeship with severe injunctions:  
Arm yourselves, but you are not allowed to use  
them against your enemies. Their use must be  
subject to our orders!

"What are the types of these promised arms? Would  
they give us the dregs of the war and the surpluses  
of their new arms as they have so far been doing?  
If their intentions are good, why should they  
ask millions for the cost of the arms, while they  
are distributing them gratis right and left?

"What is the business of these powers with  
the Arabs so as to install themselves as an  
umpire over us - we are not allowed to decide  
what we want, except with the consent of the  
Allies?

"Have we returned, by this declaration, to the  
mandate? But it is a triple mandate this time.  
Have they agreed only at the expense of us? The  
intention to maintain the Arab status quo is a  
proof of the desire of some of them to keep the  
Arabs weak, humiliated and torn apart; manipulated

by their kings, blown by the interests of the powers and dominated by the Jew from behind the curtain. How could we therefore accept this declaration? Do the rulers of the Arab countries understand its meaning and significance?

"These questions occur to one upon reading the three-power declaration. They must be taken into account when we decide our stand on this question. The important thing is that we must seize the opportunity in our interests and arm ourselves as much as possible..."

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek Orthodox, opposition)

does not editorialize on the three-power declaration but refers on its front page to the communique the Lebanese Foreign Office issued yesterday regarding the French News Agency's comment on the declaration. The paper, which publishes the Foreign Office's communique on its second page, declares that the communique states that the Lebanese Government assured the three powers, and not France alone, of its desire to promote peace in the Middle East. But, it adds, official and non-official comments emanating from London and Washington contradict the Foreign Office's story. The most eloquent proof of this contradiction, the paper continues, are the contents of a Washington USIS telegram and of a wireless despatch from London reproduced by the Information Service of the British Legation in Beirut. However, the paper makes the following comment below the Lebanese government's communique:

"It appears from the communique that these assurances were not requested by Paris alone because London's and Washington's representatives visited the Foreign Office for the same purpose. Where is the evidence of Britain's and America's recognition 'of the traditional friendly relations which bind France to Lebanon and Syria?' The Foreign Office did well in issuing the communique in order to put things in their proper perspective. We wish the Foreign Office were more frank in dispelling the fancies of the French News Agency, such as emphasizing that Lebanon looks on the powers in the light of its interests and does not prefer one power to another."

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, pro-government)

makes the following editorial comment on the three-power declaration:

"We cannot now determine the extent of the interference of the Big Three. If this means anything new, we have seen them bowing to the fait accompli in Palestine and accepting the Zionists' violation of the armistice! We have seen them

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also, headed by America, deciding on the internationalization of Jerusalem and then invalidating the decision! We have seen them deciding on armistice and then watching the Jewish forces attack in the direction of Gaza and al-Arish! Has the atmosphere changed? Are words now bearing their real meaning?

"America threatened to intervene. It almost made good its threat when the Arab forces were threatening the Jews in Palestine. The first armistice was signed under the pressure of American policy! The Arab world is positive that America will not implement one word of the declaration and that it will not intervene in the Arab East, unless such intervention saves the Jews. Actualities have taught us that the Jews have a small state in a part of Palestine, and a great state in North America and that they are compelled to defend themselves in Palestine and to attack through the millions of Americans!

"Suppose the three powers mean what they say and that they are prepared to maintain the status quo in the Middle East by force if necessary; let us suppose this for the sake of argument and let us believe it. What is the purpose of selling arms to the Arabs and the Jews? Do British, French and American arms factories need clients? What is the use of these arms? Against which enemy will they be directed?

"The internal security in the countries in question does not need heavy guns, jet planes and big tanks....Then internal security does not oblige us to spend millions of pounds for buying various arms for the battlefields. So long as the Big Three guarantee the status quo and pledge to maintain it by force, then arms will be sold or distributed to us and to others for unannounced reasons and purposes!

"The Arabs have no enemy except in Palestine. The Arab soldier is not ready to go to war except in this Holy Land which has been taken from him by force and given to the Jews! Let those in Washington, London and Paris realize that we shall not be dragged into hostilities against the Russians so that the Jews might live in comfort and prosperity in the United States, and thus keep their world influence and keep the Arab Lands also."

In his initial comments on the three-power declaration, the "diplomatic editor" of this paper says that while it is better to refrain from expatriating on the declaration, until more information is available, "We now suffice ourselves with general observations and will comment later on." The writer then says:

"1 - The three powers control arming and its purposes in the Arab states and Israel. This is an innovation of the Western Atlantic policy alone, because control over the armament of powers belongs to the United Nations. All the projects that have been submitted to UN in this respect have failed. Thus, the Western powers have replaced UN in this field.

"2 - The three powers are paving the way for directing the arming of the Middle Eastern powers, including the Arab countries, for their own purpose, namely, for resisting the Soviet Union and Communist infiltration.

"3 - They are installing themselves as trustees over the regional status quo between the Arab countries and between themselves and Israel, and as observers to avoid any change which might be effected by force.

"4 - This confirms the principle of the Western policy in Washington and London that Israel is here to stay, by protecting its frontiers against any Arab aggression.

"5 - They are giving Israel an opportunity to arm itself from Washington so long as the scope is wide before its American friends and supporters to prove that the arms will be used for Israel's internal security and legitimate defense, and for shouldering its responsibility in maintaining security in the Middle East."

ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

violently attacks the threepower declaration and calls it "impudent and unacceptable to anyone possessing an iota of honor." It says that the three powers have proclaimed their readiness to declare war on the Arabs if they contemplate recovering their usurped land, if they prepare themselves to liberate it from Jewish aggression, or if they exceed the armistice limits in Palestine. It continues that the three powers are determined to protect the criminal Zionist invasion within and outside UN and comments: "This is the strange, wonderful, impudent declaration issued by the three Western powers, the protectors of democracy - ahem - the proud defenders of the rights of man - Allah, Allah-this declaration is utterly rejected by the Arabs. They look on it with hate and contempt even if their governments should accept it."

ASH-SHA'B (Editor: Nakhla, Maronite, pro-government)

Nuriddin al-Mudawwar, a Sunni Moslem journalist who was formerly associated with ASH-SHARQ writes the leader for this paper in which he comments on the three-power declaration. He believes that the declaration (1) openly defies the independences of the seven Arab states; (2) clearly challenges UN and warns

it that it should expect the three powers to take military measures in Middle East without recourse to it; (3) the three powers are about to fall into what they are censuring the Stalin government for; (4) the declaration fleetingly implies the anticipated dissolution of the United Nations Organization, hence they are dividing spheres of influence amongst themselves.

NOTE: BEIRUT did not carry any editorial today and did not comment on the three-power declaration. Editor-publisher Muhyiddin Nsuli, who always writes the editorials, is now in Amman.

All the vernacular newspapers report the arrival in Beirut yesterday of Salih Jabur, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, and of Khalid al-Azim, the Syrian Premier.



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1A

May 29, 1950

(THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO  
DO NOT DETACH

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 28, 1950.

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

Louis al-Haj, a member of this paper's editorial staff contributes today's leader on the three-power declaration. He writes in part:

"The three powers are pretending sudden zeal for the security and prosperity of the Middle East and for preventing an armament race between its states after they have become sure of Israel's military preparedness thanks to the heavy arms and industrial equipment it has obtained from America. Where was this zeal when the Jews threw the Palestine Arabs out of their homes and when they continuously violated the armistice?

"Don't the Arab governments realize that the arms 'for safeguarding internal security and for self-defense' which the three powers will give them in return for joining the sphere of Western policy, will not save the Arab world from the danger of Zionist invasion? Israel is earnestly arming itself, thanks to its factories and its pliant foreign policy which is based on bargaining - this policy has made it the pampered child of both the West and the East!

"With regard to the guarantees offered by the three powers: announcing their opposition to the use of force or threats and their readiness to prevent violation of frontiers or the armistice, et cetera, reliance on these guarantees would put us in the position of weak powers which depend upon others for protection. We do not think that the Arab statesmen have such weak memories as to forget that similar guarantees were given in the recent past to European powers. When the time for action came, the guarantors did not make a single move. We are sure that they realize that the Western threat is primarily directed against the Arabs because it aims at maintaining the status quo.

"However, we trust that the three-power declaration will dispel the illusions of some of the Arab rulers who fancied that they could oblige the Western powers to change their policy in the Middle East by merely pretending to advocate understanding with the Soviet Union. The great powers which studied the psychology of our rulers in the Palestine war will no longer be deceived by our heroic dramas."

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Ghassan Twaini, editor of AN-NAHAR is now in Amman at the invitation of King Abdullah. He has been reporting the Army Day celebrations there. He writes that Amman has almost occupied the position of Jerusalem economically and socially. Amman is bearing the burden of Arab Jerusalem and the remaining parts of the Holy Land "and a visit to Jerusalem, Ramallah and Jericho and some of the villages surrounding these cities, will teach the observer an exceedingly important and fundamental truth: The remaining parts of Palestine will not be protected, will not remain Arab and will not be changed into strongholds from which we could sally forth to liberate the usurped territories, unless the methods the Zionists have adopted in establishing their state are used. With regard to the refugees, their fate will be extermination if they are not assimilated into a natural community connected with Arab life in Palestine and if they are not turned, in Palestine and elsewhere, into an effective and productive human force economically and militarily." Twaini then emphasizes that the refugees are insisting on returning to their homes and lands in Palestine, and makes the following comment on the Clapp project:

"This international project wants to engage the refugees in opening and constructing roads, namely, it primarily takes into consideration the strategic exigencies - the question of roads is a strategic one. Furthermore, the project employs the refugees in unproductive work and keeps them away from their country - the roads for returning the refugees to their country ~~do not~~ the roads they are building in the Arab countries!"

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Muslim, opposition)

In a despatch from Amman describing the Army and Independence Day celebrations there, Muhyiddin Nsuli writes in part: "Those who want King Abdullah to deviate from the Arab ideals are wrong, because the Western bank contains six hundred thousand refugees. Do they wish to leave this area to the All-Palestine Government which is a ghost government or as a tasty bit in the mouth of the Jews?" Nsuli argues that the Arab sections of Palestine joined Jordan with the free will of their inhabitants. He then dwells on the refugee question and says that all the refugees want to return to their homes in Palestine. With regard to the UN Relief Agency, Nsuli complains that this Agency "is providing the refugees with very small quantities of flour, rice, sugar, oil and dried grapes which are hardly sufficient. Must the refugees live on bread alone? We must find work for them which will restore their confidence, make them live again and help them contribute their share toward reconstructing the collapsed community."

AL-'AMAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Phalange Party)

discusses current efforts for composing the Lebano-Syrian economic differences and claims that the seventy-four days of economic disruption between the two countries have proved that the viewpoint of the Lebanese "who seek complete independence" is correct. The paper welcomes

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these efforts but wishes that the economic relations with Syria be based "on agreements chiefly for exchanging local products and services and for liquidating old relations and partnerships."

In a second editorial, the paper criticizes those Lebanese who clamor for the annexation of Lebanon to Syria whenever they suffer from slight inconveniences.

ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

denounces the three-power declaration and says in part:

"These powers that have encouraged aggression; that have broken tens of promises and pledges; that have heaped on the Arabs one treason after another and whose imperial forces are still occupying three-fourths of the Arab world, massacring and suppressing every nationalist and liberation movement, these same powers are today issuing a new declaration claiming that they will 'guarantee' the Arabs against new Zionist aggression. A valuable 'guarantee' indeed, and a pledge fraught with truth and honor! Why not, Aren't Great Britain, France and the United States the guarantors?.."

AL-HADAF (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist)

criticizes the three-power declaration and claims that it furthers the interests of the Zionists only. It says that the Arab peoples know their enemies and know who covet their lands and who want to enslave and humiliate them and turn their lands into "an arsenal and a front base for the interests of the imperialists of the world. The three powers want to include us in their camp with gangster Israel on the basis of recognizing the fait accompli and the irrevocable loss of Palestine. The three-power declaration wants to make us enemies of the other camp without any reward and for the sake of Western imperialism which is beginning to quake and tremble because of the awakening of the colonized peoples and of the emergence of those upon whom they depend..The Arab world knows no enemy except those who have usurped its lands and established states and kingdoms thereon.. If it will be impossible for the Arabs to observe neutrality and if they will be obliged to bear arms, they will do so only to return the blow and to crush those who have attacked their existence, their dignity and their honor. The Allies must not forget this.."

AL-BAYRAQ (Editor: Fadhil Sa'eed Aql, Maronite, opposition)

regards the three-power declaration as a permanent international guarantee for Israel under the pretext of safeguarding peace in the Middle East and as an implied pressure on the Arab states. The following

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"The declaration has fallen as a thunderbolt on many people, because it is a tangible picture of foreign interference in Eastern affairs...It is an international guarantee for the independence of the Jewish state..The Arabs have no hope for doing away with this state except in the outbreak of a third world war when the great powers will be preoccupied with their security and affairs... All future attacks on Israel have become impossible.. The declaration is an implied invitation to the Arab states to abandon the idea of formulating plans for the possibility of attacking the frontiers of the Jewish state....Indeed, this declaration which kills many of the Eastern military programs is an implied invitation to Israel on the one hand, and to the six Arab states on the other, to come closer to one another and to conclude full peace in the near future.."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

May 30, 1950

25X1A

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO  
DO NOT DETACH

Review of the Arabic Press

Appearing on May 30, 1950

BEIRUT (Editor: Mahyiddin Husuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

carries the following editorial on the three-power declaration:

"This is a grave declaration which primarily means that agreement between Britain, America and France on a joint policy in these parts has become complete after every one of these three powers had worked for its own account and competed for spreading its influence in the Arab areas with the result that confusion reigned in the Arab and Western policies simultaneously.

"It is deduced from this declaration that the three Western powers also aim at strengthening peace and stability between the Arab states on the one hand and Israel on the other, after having stipulated that they should not violate the fixed boundaries or the armistice lines. Thus the three powers have formed out of themselves a council for maintaining peace in the Middle Eastern area.

"While this declaration was notified to Lebanon and Syria via France, Britain conveyed it to Egypt, Jordan and Iraq; and America explained its contents to Saudi Arabia and Israel. Have the Western powers reverted to the policy of dividing spheres of influence, a policy which is no longer consonant with the principles of the United Nations Organisation?

"This three-power declaration must urge the Arabs to settle their disputes and to cooperate amongst themselves if they wish to preserve their independence which they have bought with their blood. They must handle the Palestine problem with wisdom and farsightedness.

"We feel that the first duty of the Arab states is soundly to organize their internal affairs from all the economic, cultural and social standpoints. They must make their peoples enjoy security, justice and prosperity so that when the hour of danger strikes, these peoples will solidly stand by the side of their governments. Otherwise the future is dark and tomorrow is fraught with perils.

"We do not deny that there are ambiguous points in this declaration which must be clarified by the three Western powers, after every one

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of us is arbitrarily interpreting it because of lack of confidence and good will in this troubled world. Will the Arabs meet together, kill their differences and address a joint note to the three powers asking them therein to interpret this declaration clearly before every one of us interprets it differently?"

**AL-HAYAT** (Editorial: Kamil Maruwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

complains that despite its repeated promises, the government has failed to raise the standard of the Lebanese press. It charges that the press, "has, since the war, fallen into a deep abyss of moral and material degradation, so much so that it has become an affliction to itself and to the country's social and political life." The editorial then asserts that 80 per cent of the Lebanese newspapers cannot earn enough to defray their expenses and that they obtain funds from "traders in influence, from government offices, from government officials in their capacity as statesmen or men of influence and from other innumerable sources."

**AD-DIXAR** (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, pro-government)

criticizes the present Syrian government and says "the Arabs know that conditions in Damascus are based on the sword only and that if the people were allowed freely to express their views not a single member of the administration would remain in power."

**ASH-SHARQ** (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extremely nationalist)

violently attacks the three-power declaration and claims that the three Western powers want to arm the Arab countries in order to fight the Soviet Union. The paper also criticizes the Arab rulers and accuses them of serving the Western camp to the detriment of their own native peoples.

The following are additional editorial press comments on the three-power declaration appearing on May 28, 1950:

**SAWI AL-AHRAR** (Editor: Camille Yusuf Dhamun, Maronite, opposition)

commenting editorially on the three-power declaration this paper says that no international event has been so gravely anticipated by the world as the joint declaration. "This declaration," the paper declares, "is the most important international document which contains clear guarantees from the standpoint of entities and existences given to the Arab governments...The military and political treaties they have been mentioning for the past year and a half and which have been heatedly discussed, these treaties are no longer necessary following the

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issuance of the joint declaration...especially as the leaders of the Arab countries and Israel have bound themselves to the Allies by pledges...The joint declaration is not only a non-aggression treaty between the Arab States and Israel...it is also a means for 'burying' the Arab League, which they have created for a purpose they have already attained and for the existence of which there is therefore no 'international' justification. Thus the guarantees and the joint declaration are the cloth with which they will shroud a regional organization which has not been able, since its birth, to accomplish any useful work...This proves that the great powers have the final say on fates and directions..."

**AL-BAYAN** (Editor: Bishara Maroun, Maronite, pro-government)

publishes on its front page an article contributed by "an Arab Statesman" who reviews the three-power declaration and concludes:

"At any rate, we stand on the side of those who have welcomed the three-power declaration which is, in the view of thinkers, a successful means for safeguarding stability in the East, if we wish to recognize the truth and regard the absence of stability as due to lack of understanding between the three powers on a unified policy. It was natural that their rivalry for influence in every country should create this uneasy atmosphere which has greatly prejudiced Arab unity and interests. We would be unrealistic or ignorant of facts if we attempted to feel that it was possible for any small and weak country to liberate itself from the influence of great powers. It is sufficient for us to look at the condition of the countries that are enjoying Soviet friendship and realize that if we were not here we would have been there...."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

25X1A

May 31, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO   
DO NOT DETACH

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on May 31, 1950

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nauli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

urges the Arabs to unite themselves, compose their differences and consult with one another now that the three great Western powers "have installed themselves as a security council over this East." In offering this advice to the Arabs, the paper says that it is grieved to see the Arab countries "scattered, a Cabinet crisis prevailing in Syria, and anxiety reigning over most of the Arab states because of the twisted internal policy their governments are following--this policy is one of the principal reasons which caused the Western powers to issue this tripartite declaration after Arab economic, social and cultural affairs had become confused, thus encouraging the infiltration of Communism and motivating a number of Arab politicians to turn their faces toward the Kremlin. They have lost the friendship of the West and we wonder whether they have won the friendship of the East...We have said that the present interval is critical and, indeed, grave. Therefore it is our duty not to pre-occupy ourselves with the expulsion of Jordan. We must approve the merger of the two banks because the Western bank has not been occupied by a foreigner. Why all this ado while the house is on fire and while the tripartite declaration is ambiguous, lacks clarification, and calls for a wise stand which the Arab states must assume as one man lest we lose our independence and retrogress by decades?"

AL-NAYAT (Editor: Kamil Murawwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

editorializes on the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council and wonders whether

"The Council will devote all its time for discussing the question of expelling Jordan or not, following the issuance of the tripartite declaration on 'arming' the East and the revelation of the division by these powers of the Arab countries into spheres of influence. If the Arab League countries were really anxious to maintain the 'independences' of which they have often boasted, they would have convoked the Council last week and would have put the dots on the letters. But for the Council to meet in order to expel this or that country, after the tripartite declaration had revealed the reality of the conditions lurking behind the independences, would be a comedy which we prefer to avoid at the present time.



"It would be better for the Arab states to discuss during the League meeting the protection of their independences against foreign intervention, instead of challenging one another. If they fail to do this, then they would better invite America, England, and France to join the League or openly leave the question of Arab leadership to them. During the five years that have passed over the League, we have found its states promoting in their individual policies interests strongly related either to America, England or France...."

**AD-BIYAR** (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, pro-government)

writes that the Arab countries are now consulting one another in order to answer the three-power declaration, and says that the Arab governments and peoples unanimously maintain that the declaration prejudices the Arabs and favors Israel and that it constitutes direct intervention in Arab affairs, thus affecting the sovereignty and independence of the Arab countries. The editorial argues that the effectiveness of the Arab reply will depend upon the extent to which they could realize what they write. It then adds that it is obvious that the declaration would be unjust to the Arabs because those who have created Israel cannot be expected to strangle it for the sake of the Arab countries which rebel against them by words and bend to their will by deeds! The editorial then concludes:

"The real Arab reply will not emanate from the Arab nation before it is liberated from the heavy chains which bind it to the middle ages and which prevent it from marching toward modern civilization..."

**TELEGRAM** (Editor: Nasib Matni, Maronite, opposition)

In commenting on the three-power declaration this paper says that political circles in the Arab countries feel that the declaration openly interferes in Arab internal and foreign affairs and imposes on the Arabs the necessity for making peace with the Jews. Therefore, it urges the Arab states, which are now subjected to a triple mandate, to wake up and take decisions during the forthcoming Arab League meeting against the policy and methods of the three Western powers that are attempting to turn the Arab countries into a battlefield and bases for their troops. The paper then charges that the Western powers will sell arms to the Arabs in defense of their own interests against the Soviet Union which has not expressed any wish for interfering or for coveting anything in the

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Arab countries. Finally, the paper urges the Lebanese government to evade the influence of the three powers and not of France alone whose influence and domination are no longer as fearful as those of the others.

ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni Moslem, extreme nationalist)

carries two editorials and several articles, all violently condemning the three-power declaration. One of the articles is signed by Nasib Nimr, who always openly associates himself with pro-Soviet movements. The editorials and the articles are inflammatory.

AL-NADAF (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shai-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist)

editorializes on the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council and on the question of Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine. It says, after wondering how the League will emerge from the Jordan impasse:

"Some Arabs find excuses for Jordan's annexation of the remnants of Palestine. Others, who are the majority, regard that Egypt's stand on this critical question, as completely correct. This being the case, what prevents Jordan from promising to leave the question to the inhabitants of Palestine after the final settlement of their country is reached? What will be the effect of this promise on the Jordan while God alone knows when this settlement will be reached? The present critical circumstances and the recent attitude of the imperialists toward us, should urge us all to think long before taking any step and should remind us that nothing prevents the imperialists from implementing their conspiracies save our unity...."

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE  
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AMERICAN LEGATION,  
BEIRUT

25X1A

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on June 1, 1950

June 1, 1950

BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Husni, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

stating that Syria is now suffering from an acute Cabinet crisis, the paper deplores the difficulties that country has been suffering since the first coup d'etat and says:

"Indeed, Syria is outwardly confronting an economic crisis, but it is actually facing a universal crisis which we are feeling everywhere. We are conscious of this crisis which is repressed because the bayonets are standing behind it and obstructing its release. When are these bayonets going to disappear so that the Syrian people might feel that they are free to express their will and to march along the straight road leading to the goals which originated and grew up in Damascus unobstructed and untrammelled?"

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Murunwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

carries the following editorial on the three-power declaration:

"The question which calls for an answer apropos the tripartite declaration does not bear the division of the Arab states into spheres of influence, but on the extent of Arab complicity in the issuance of the declaration. It appears to us that the interests of some of the 'Arab rulers' are commensurate with those of the three powers - or of some of them - for keeping the status quo unchanged, even though via a new mandate which will include everyone.

"With regard to the division (of spheres of influence) it has been implied in effect for a long time. Evidence of this are the military, political and financial activities of some of the Arab governments. It is enough to review these activities since 1947 to discover that the Arab powers themselves, ~~proceed~~ along these directions and self-divided themselves.

"The three great powers could have restricted themselves in their declaration, to the subject of arms only. But they exceeded this limit, anent the banning of war between Israel and the Arab states, to blocking the road leading to any change in the status quo in the Middle East. Doesn't this 'caution' strangely conform to the wishes of some of the Arab governments? Do these governments have a finger in the issuance of the declaration in this manner?"

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"This is the question which calls for an answer. Probably, it is more important than the declaration itself in relation to these Arab states with protected independences!"

AL-HAYAT'S Diplomatic Correspondent writes the following report on the three-power declaration and on the "fate of the treaty with America."

"Foreign Office circles are still maintaining strict reticence on the tripartite declaration and are refusing to comment thereon, thus awaiting the results of the consultations the Arab states are making with one another in this respect.

"Unlike the other Arab states, Lebanon is facing numerous problems because of this declaration, particularly in connection with the division of spheres of influence in the Near East and with the restoration of relations between Lebanon and France on the one hand, and between Lebanon and the other powers on the other.

"Informed circles state, in commenting on the Foreign Office's communique on Lebanon's relations with France, that the communique did not explain the ambiguous points the three powers raised when they asked France officially to convey the tripartite declaration to Lebanon and Syria - they regard the communique as a rejoinder to the report of the French News Agency.

"These circles added that the tripartite declaration did not come as a surprise to the Arab states. Indeed, it came as a result of contacts which took place between themselves and the three powers following the second armistice in Palestine.

"I asked an informed source about the effect the tripartite declaration might have on the current negotiations between Lebanon and America for concluding a treaty of friendship and commerce between the two countries. He said:

"France had previously objected to these negotiations and demanded that it be enlightened on the contacts that took place between the Foreign Office and the American Legation in Beirut - this was effected through the exchange of notes between the French Minister and the Lebanese Foreign Office.

"France stated in one of these notes that it evacuated its troops from Lebanon because it wished to grant this country complete independence. However, it stipulated that Lebanon must not conclude treaties with any other power in a manner which would grant such power a special position or permit it to replace France.

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'The Foreign Office replied that the discussions that were going on between Lebanon and America were for the purpose of concluding a treaty of commerce and consultation and that there was no question of granting America a special position in Lebanon. But France insisted on knowing the basic points of the discussions, while the Foreign Office rejected this request.'

"The informed source then went on to say:

'But now, and following the tripartite declaration which we regard as an indirect orientation of the foreign policy of the powers that have fallen under the division of spheres of influence between America, Britain and France, no one definitely knows the French government's stand on the Lebano-American treaty, although it objected to it in the past.'

"The source then concluded:

'At any rate, Lebanon will not recognize America's and Britain's action by asking France to convey the three-power declaration to it and to Syria. I believe that the joint views which the Arab states will express will explain this and many other points.'

According to AL-HAYAT, when the bill providing for additional five million Lebanese pounds with which to equip the Lebanese Army was debated at yesterday's meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Camille Shamun asked whether arms would be purchased under the three-power declaration. Premier as-Salh replied:

"We stated in the communique we ourselves have issued that we were not bound to buy arms from any particularly party. We shall buy from any place we wish and we shall not bind ourselves to anything."

The bill was then passed unanimously.

AL-'ANAL (Maronite, opposition, organ of the Lebanese Challenge Party)

writes in connection with the three-power declaration "that a Foreign Office spokesman has told our special representative that the Lebanese government has forwarded telegram to the Secretary General of the Arab League suggesting that the question of the reply to the three-power declaration be placed on the agenda of the League Council which is slated to meet June 12.

"However, the Foreign Office yesterday received numerous telegrams from our Legations in European and American countries reporting the attitude of those countries on the declaration, most of which support it on the ground that it assures the non-renewal of disturbances in the Middle Eastern area which is regarded by the great powers as one of the strategic areas where security must be maintained."

**AL-YAR** (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek Orthodox, pro-government)

reviews the repercussions of the three-power declaration in the Arab countries and says apropos Lebanon: "In Beirut, official silence prevails which indicates a desire for further explanation and for having a uniform Arab reply." The paper then comments, after stating that it looks as though that Saudi Arabia is not concerned with the declaration:

"In point of fact, the declaration does not concern all of us! It does not open a new chapter in our international relationships and in the stand of the Western powers toward us. The heading of this chapter is defiance and coercion: defiance of the right of self-determination on which nations and peoples are based; and coercion obliging us to accept the regional status which they are envisaging for us under the pretext of maintaining security and preserving peace. Perhaps we all realize the meaning of this defiance and the interpretation of this coercion and feel that they have done what they have done regardless of our will, because they are accustomed to our surrender to the fait accompli or to our attempts to change it by words. Words do not create anything if not followed by deeds. The fait accompli can be countered by a fait accompli within our power and in accordance with our requirements. This is the only measure which might possibly be effective if we want to have the Westerners respect our reply to what they have decided without our knowledge."

**AL-HADAF** (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist)

carries the following editorial which bears on the three-power declaration:

"Who is this Lebanese Minister to one of the European states that regards the tripartite declaration as harmonious with Lebanon's traditional policy?

"Who is this great diplomat that has volunteered and said in behalf of his government that it receive the declaration with tranquility and satisfaction?

"We know, so far, that the Lebanese government has not answered the declaration. We also know that the official utterances and comments have not been far from public feeling which has been shocked by the strange and impudent declaration. Furthermore, we know that the government has instructed our representatives abroad to make immediate contacts in order to learn the secrets of the declaration and to reveal its ambiguous points. Now could this Minister permit himself to speak before learning his people's and government's reaction to this declaration?

"We cannot but regret this strange statement and censure the government for its delay in contacting

its Ministers to the powers that have conspired amongst themselves and issued the declaration, so that they would not make such statements which are more harmful than the declaration!

"We find in the Lebanese Minister's behavior a new occasion for supporting every voice that has so far been raised in Arab Parliaments denouncing the triple conspiracy and supporting every move for reconsidering our relations with the democracies and for liberating ourselves from them and from their imperialism.

"At the same time we bless any move for removing the causes of misunderstanding prevailing between ourselves and the enemies of the Western camp, now that we have lost hope for the possibility of obtaining our usurped rights and for persuading Western imperialism that our friendship is conditional on a settlement of all our problems..."

AR-RUWWAD (Editor: Bishara Marcun, Maronite, pro-government)

complains that several days have elapsed since the issuance of the three-power declaration while the Arab statesmen have not demonstrated that such a grave event merits their protests and indeed, their meeting. The paper then goes on to say:

"The unity of arms that has been imposed on the Arabs and Israel means, frankly, the beginning of a new turning point which will enable Israel to consolidate itself and indeed to make its future attack. The Arab surrender to the teachings and instructions of the three great powers will cement the foundations of this state forever. It will cause the Arabs not only to lose hope for regaining Palestine but for maintaining their existence as free peoples in their homelands!

"We warn the statesmen and rulers of the Arab peoples against the black serpent that has protruded from the mouths of the Big Three. We demand that they wrestle with these giants and reject their generous offer which bears a deadly poison for us."

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE  
DO NOT DETACHAMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 2, 1950

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on June 2, 1950BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

Muhyiddin Nsuli writes editorially that he has carefully studied the English text of the three-power declaration and has found out that Britain, America and France have followed, in releasing this declaration, a new trend toward a collective policy for the security of this strategically important area of the East against the Communist danger which has started to infiltrate across its frontiers. Thus, the editor believes that the three-powers agree in their new collective policy on spreading peace and stability in the Middle East. The editor then goes on to say:

"If we arm ourselves for safeguarding our internal security and for checking the Jews if they decide to expand at our expense, would our resources permit us to arm ourselves for resisting Communist aggression if war broke out between the Eastern and the Western blocs? Would we be able to withstand the Russian legions, while the declaration speaks, it seems to us, of arming for this purpose also?"

"I have said that the declaration is very grave and needs a joint and deep study on the part of the Arab states...for the preservation of the stability and peace we are seeking just as the Western powers are seeking them. Do the Arab states intend to compose their differences so that they might be able to settle the problems existing between them and Britain, America and France once and for all?"

"These great powers have coordinated their policy and have taken a big step toward collective policy in this East. We must also have a positive Arab collective policy with which to ward off the Israeli danger and the Communist danger, lest we miss the train."

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In reporting the visits of the American, British and French Ministers to Philip Taqla at the Foreign Office yesterday, this paper writes in part:

"Despite the reticence of the official departments, it is generally believed that the three Ministers presented to the Foreign Office the instructions they have received from their governments on the tripartite declaration. The Foreign Office is anxious to keep these instructions secret until the current consultations between the Arab capitals are over.

"A meeting was held at the Presidential Palace last evening which included Riadh as-Selh and Philip Taqla. It is believed that the Foreign Minister reported the details of the talks he had with the three Ministers and showed the President and the



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Premier the statement which he will make today before the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee..."

**AL-HAYAT** (Editor: Kamil Muruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

carries the following editorial on the three-power declaration:

"Will anyone, in the Arab states, ask about the reasons that have caused the issuance of the tripartite declaration? You hear in the various Arab capitals official and popular voices of resentment, but no one is diagnosing the disease and placing the responsibilities where they should be placed.

"Let us go back to 1945, when the Arab League was born. Let us ask: If the Arab countries were sincere in their promises to God and to their peoples and if they were well-meaning toward the League, would such a declaration have been issued?

"If these states had collaborated and created customs, economic and military unions amongst themselves, would anyone now dare to challenge their sovereignty?

"The 'independences' the Arab states obtained after the war were projects of independences! They should have turned them into realities. Every one of them should have realized that it would be impossible for it to consolidate its independence without farfetched cooperation with its Arab sisters. But the avarice for thrones and positions committed unpardonable crimes against the independences. It obstructed every possible cooperation with the result that the League collapsed following the birth of Israel, and with it collapsed the independences in the manner lurking between the lines of the tripartite declaration!

"Who is responsible? Who asks? Who accounts? Does this remorse indicate that these peoples are not worthy of independence and that they are fit only for these protected 'independences'?"

**AL-NAHAR** (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

argues that the loud voices that are now being raised at the Chamber of Deputies for the revision of the Election Law might be artificial clamorings intended to amuse the Deputies and to distract the people. It then goes on to say after criticizing the government and the Election Law:

"Whether the Deputies are serious or not, the sure thing is that the people do not expect any reforms of their democratic life at the hands of the deputies; firstly, because it is not reasonable that they commit suicide since reforms will preclude their return to the Chamber; and secondly, because the people are determined not to seek their election liberties from those who have repressed their liberties and falsified their will. The people are resolved to impose their liberty and will..."

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In reporting the visit of the French Cruiser to Beirut, this paper states in part: "The sudden arrival of the cruiser has raised a wave of wonder because, according to procedure, the government on which the visit is to be paid must be notified of the date of the visit ten days in advance. But the French Legation notified the government only 48 hours before the arrival of the cruiser."

**AP-DIXAR** (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, pro-government)

writes that the extraordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies begins today so that the deputies might be able to pass a number of laws which have been pending because of the budgetary debates. Among the pending bills, the paper states, is one for the revision of the Election Law. It complains that the revision of this law was earmarked three years ago but nothing has yet been done to effect it because, despite the government's desire to revise the law, "The subject touches upon the essence of the administration...The prevailing mentality has operated in placing responsibilities and solutions on the shoulder of time and on reluctance to anger anyone, particularly the strong and the influential. This mentality has been thriving on the blood of the reform projects, on progress and on reconstruction for many a year...Has the time come for changing this mentality?..."

**ASH-SHA'IR** (Editor: Amin Nakhla, Maronite, pro-government)

editorializes on the statements Premier as-Solh made at the Chamber of Deputies two days ago to the effect that Lebanon was free to purchase arms from any party. The paper wonders "whether this statement means that the Lebanese government could purchase arms from a power other than Britain, France and the United States. If this is possible, would Lebanon be outside the strategic 'cadre' that has been formulated by the tripartite declaration for the Middle East?...If Lebanon does not purchase arms under the declaration, its stipulations would be nullified...This question merits a clear answer."

**AL-HADAF** (Editor: Zuhair Usairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government and extreme nationalist)

publishes on its front page an article written by Dr. George Hanna, an intellectual leftist who associates himself with the pro-Soviet movements in Lebanon. Dr. Hanna severely criticizes the three-power declaration as well as the Arab rulers whose statements denouncing the declaration, he claims, will not move the three western powers which have been accustomed to hearing and ridiculing such statements. Dr. Hanna argues that the tripartite declaration reveals three undeniable facts, to wit:

- 1 - The Western countries are fully consecrating present conditions in the Near East and supporting, indeed, imposing the stability of the status quo with all its defects

2 - The Western countries are displaying their readiness to punish by force if necessary those who

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might be tempted to affect the sanctity of this stability.

3 - The western powers will arm, or rather will impose arming on the Arab states so that the latter might help them in their aggression or defense against those whom they regard as their enemies even if they are not the enemies of the Arab peoples.

ASH-SHARQ (Editor: Khairi Ka'ki, Sunni-Moslem, extreme nationalist)

attacks the ruling classes in the Arab countries and accuses them of having conspired "with the three Western powers in the issuance of the impudent joint declaration." It charges that these ruling classes have been and still are dealers in politics, servants of foreigners and slaves of imperialists. Therefore, it urges the Arab peoples to get rid of them so that the Arab world might save itself from "the clutches of the beastly Western imperialists."

**AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT**

25X1A

June 3, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO  
DO NOT DETACH**Review of the Local Arabic Press**  
**Appearing on June 3, 1950****AL-HAYAT** (Editor: Kamil Murawwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

writes that the internal situation in Syria still constitutes the most important problem in relation to the neighboring Arab states, directly affecting Lebanon and indirectly Iraq and Jordan. Therefore, the paper says, it is natural for it to regard this "question as bearing on us and binding us morally and materially." The difficulties in Syria, it argues, arise from the fact that the Constituent Assembly legitimately plays the role of a Chamber of Deputies and of an author of the constitution. But special circumstances do not permit it to do anything but prepare the constitution. Hence the constitutional paralysis in the present Syrian situation, because it is not possible to dispense with the Constituent Assembly as a Chamber of Deputies and it is not possible for it also to do more than it has already done! The paper then continues:

"How could Syria emerge from this crisis? If all the Syrian statements were sincere believers in the constitutional system and if they did not care for government seats, it would not be impossible for them to reach a reasonable settlement--if they decided to place the constitution above all other interests and to make it a condition for accepting government. But personal opportunism obsesses most of them and causes them to accept every bargain leading to ministerial seats at the expense of the constitutional life. They thus obstruct positive political unanimity and this is the root of the trouble.... It is futile to search for a reasonable solution in an unusual situation like the present Syrian one which would not know stability without a constitutional and without a government emanating from it."

The Parliamentary correspondent of this paper reports at some length the statement Foreign Minister Philip Tacla made yesterday before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. The Minister spoke about his recent trip to Europe and South America and said that the talks he had had with the government leaders in the countries through which he passed, resulted in strengthening the bonds of cooperation and good will existing between Lebanon and most of these countries. The Foreign Minister also touched upon Lebanon's relations with France, Italy, Spain and upon the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council. Apropos Lebanon's relations with France, the Foreign Minister is quoted by the correspondent as having said: "These relations are cultural and economic only." He asserted that no official talks had been made on any subject with the French Government. Asked whether new political relations have resulted from the three-power declaration and from the assurances given to France, the Foreign Minister replied that no discussions developed

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in this respect during his presence in Paris. One of the Committee members then raised the question of the tripartite declaration and demanded certain explanations from the Foreign Minister regarding the Lebanese Government's stand on this declaration. The Minister replied that although he was absent from Beirut when the tripartite declaration was conveyed to Lebanon, he was already acquainted with the issue. He continued: You know that the purpose of asking France to convey this declaration to us is explained in the Foreign Office's communique. When Premier Riadh as-Solh learned that the French Minister was charged officially to convey the declaration to him, he immediately invited the British and American Ministers to a meeting. He informed them of Lebanon's desire to preserve peace and security in the Near East and that he, the Premier, did not see any justification for granting assurances to France alone. Philip Taia then went on to say: With regard to the Lebanese government's attitude toward the declaration, this attitude has not been defined yet, because we prefer to have our attitude consistent with that of the rest of the Arab League states. In point of fact, contacts have started between the Arab governments for exchanging their views and adopting a uniform attitude. This subject will be studied at the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council..

AN-NAHAR (Editor: Ghassan Twaini, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

points out that talk about revision of the Election Law is being accompanied by a suggestion for creating an upper house which, it is reported, will be like a reform prescription for solving the existing problems and crises. The editorial regards the creation of an upper as necessary for the desired reforms, "if we mean by reforms other than transfers of officials, dismissals of governors, appointments of *Quimmaqams* and creation of inspection departments that do not inspect!" Criticizing the present Chamber of Deputies, the election procedure and the government in one breath, the editorial argues that the creation of a senate along the line of the Chamber of Deputies, whether by election or appointment, will not benefit the present system. It asserts: "We want the upper house to be a chamber where the various popular bodies and the statesmen who have played important roles in Lebanon's politics will be represented, so much so that this house will be a correction for the defective popular representation which is embodied in the Chamber of Deputies..." The paper then concludes:

"If our legislators were like those who prove, even once, their readiness to sacrifice their interests for public welfare, we would not hesitate to believe that reforms of our representative system would become a reality.

"However, despite this, what causes us to hope that this question will be treated seriously, is our confidence that our legislators and the authorities will

inevitably realize that the political monopolization is about to reach its end and that they must, if they wish to save the country from a deep upheaval when the administration is transferred from them to others, build the transfer bridge which will turn the revolution into an evolution, so that events will not bring about their downfall and the downfall of what is more valuable than they!"

✓ AN-NAHAR carries the following report on the incident involving Ahmad al-As'ad, Minister of Public Works, and his cousins Muhammad and Hassan al-As'ad:

"The following official communique was issued last evening:

'On June 1, Muhammad Bey al-As'ad, called up twenty-five men and supplied them with military arms and machine guns. He urged them spread themselves over the elevations near his house at Idaisa in order to surround the village and to spread fear and create disturbances among the inhabitants of this sensitive part of the country.

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'More than two hundred shots were fired on the Gendarme Post, some of which hit the posts' window panes. Sergeant Qasim Surur suffered slight injuries. The Gendarmes succeeded in arresting Muhammad Bey al-As'ad, his brother Hassan and twenty-three men and in confiscating from Muhammad Bey's house six military rifles, three machine guns and substantial quantities of bullets and knives. The interrogator has instituted investigations and the situation is quiet.'

"This is the communique. The Eastern News Agency has published the following details on the incident:

"The press referred, some time ago, to the differences which have arisen between Ahmad al-As'ad, Minister of Public Works, and his cousins Muhammad and Hassan al-As'ad.

'The Minister decided, two days ago, to visit his town with his wife on the occasion of their return from their visit to the Holy Places in Iraq. A number of his followers wished to seize this opportunity to express their loyalty to him. They therefore made preparations to welcome him by setting up decorations and arches of triumph in the villages through which he was to pass.

'One of these villages is Idaisa, a large portion of whose lands are owned by Muhammad and Hassan al-As'ad, who resented the setting up by their cousin's followers in that village of decorations for him. They therefore mobilized

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twenty-five men and supplied them with military arms and machine guns and urged them to occupy the elevations surrounding the village and to encircle the Gendarme post there with the object of preventing the villagers from welcoming the Minister and of obliging them to <sup>pull</sup> down the decorations and ultimately to occupy the Minister's town.

'The Gendarme Post immediately contacted the Southern command which in turn communicated with the General Command in Beirut. The Ministry of Interior took interest in the matter and the Gendarme's Command despatched adequate forces to the village. These forces were immediately able to arrest 23 persons who took part in the incident. The Gendarmes confiscated from them four machine guns and eight military rifles....The Eastern News Agency understands that evidences have been presented to the interrogator to the effect that Muhammad and Hassan al-As'ad had plotted a conspiracy to assassinate Ahmad al-Adad and that their measures in Idaisa were a prelude to the execution of that conspiracy. Five men, out of those already arrested, were apprehended in Sidon. It is reported that they were sent there to learn the time when the Minister would pass through that city so that they would telephone their friends in Idaisa to be ready."

"This is the report of the Eastern News Agency. Communications have been exchanged between the Ministries of Justice and National Defense which resulted in the adoption of a decision for referring the case to the Military Court. A large army contingent has been despatched to the place of the incident." (Translator's Note: AL-HAYAT states, in reporting the above incident, that "rumors circulated in Beirut yesterday to the effect that battles had developed in the South. The press exaggerated the rumor until the people of Beirut imagined that a 'civil war' had exploded in the South. In fact, the case is not more than a local and family affair, although its consequences will not end with its end!" AD-DIYAR devotes a long editorial to the subject in which it blames the government for failure to apply the law firmly and equitably. It demands that the government "shatter the tragedy of the people's notion or belief that the duty of the Gendarmes and the government officials is other than distribution of justice to the people. The problem is that the Lebanese must be sure that the government is applying the law only and not protecting the leadership of anyone.")

AD-DIYAR (Editor: Hanna Ghosn, Greek-Orthodox, opposition)

In deploring the present political crisis in Syria, this paper says, "The crisis must not continue because Syria is threatened with foreign dangers on all sides. A surgical operation is inevitable for saving Syria from its present plight. If this operation is not made internally

it will certainly come from outside. The Syrian leaders must therefore beware of their situation. They must realize the fate to which they are dragging their country if they continue to indulge in their differences..."

AL-BAYRAQ (Editor: Fadhil Sa'eed Aql, Maronite, opposition)

devotes a long editorial to the present Syrian crisis and says in part, after extensively reviewing the Syrian political situation:

"If we add to these internal difficulties the clouds and hardships that are looming in the sky of international politics and in that of the relations of the Western powers with the Arab world.. we would be able to appreciate the importance of overcoming the Syrian crisis and the urgent necessity of speeding up the formation of a strong coalition government in Damascus and indeed in all the Arab capitals!"

SAWT AL-AHRAR (Editor: Camille Yusuf Shamun, Maronite, opposition)

editorializes on the three-power declaration which it regards as a non-aggression pact between the Arab states and Israel. When King Abdullah endeavored to conclude such a pact the Arab League rose against him and threatened his country with expulsion, et cetera. "If we want to go farther than this" the paper adds "we would say that the joint declaration means acceptance of the provisional fait accompli in Palestine. Thus the Arab States will no longer be able to touch this fait accompli until the final settlement is reached...We do not attach great importance to the transmittal by the Legations of the three powers of the text of the declaration to the Lebanese press, to the exclusion of the independent Lebanese government. We do not care for these formalities vis-a-vis the actuality and the truth and vis-a-vis might which has the right to impose wills under the shadow of democracy. But we want to take this grave incident as a lesson for imparting it to our government and to the Arab governments which should have - at least - made the repatriation of the refugees as a bargain for accepting the fait accompli, and which should not have unconditionally yielded to the will of others and welcomed the joint declaration with satisfaction."



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

29X4A

June 5, 1950

THIS IS AN ENCLOSURE TO   
DO NOT DETACHReview of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on June 4, 1950BEIRUT (Editor: Muhyiddin Nsuli, Sunni-Moslem, opposition)

emphasizing that the revision of the Election Law is the basis of all reforms, the editorial states in part:

"Indeed, we must revise the present Election Law in a manner which will limit the authority of the feudalists and liberate the elector from their domination, by breaking up the Muhafadah (Province) into several electoral districts...The May 25, 1947 tragedy must not be repeated. Yes-men must not be brought to the Chamber at the hands of the feudalists and through the present Election Law. This depends upon the responsible authorities and upon the Lebanese people at the same time."

In its roundup of the local political scene, BEIRUT writes that meetings were held yesterday at the Presidential Palace and at the offices of the deputies for studying the proposed revision of the Election Law. While those who took part in these meetings maintained reticence, the opposition leaders stated that they would announce their stand on the Election in the next few days. The paper then goes on to say:

"The unofficial meetings which were held yesterday indicated that there were obvious differences between the responsible authorities themselves on the revision of the Law. Some of them wish to increase the number of the deputies, while others oppose such increase and insist on maintaining the present number of the deputies in order to avoid new problems."

"There is a group among the responsible authorities which advocates the creation of a Senate. But another group is opposing this idea. However, they all agree on keeping the election on the basis of the Muhafadah and not on the basis of districts as demanded by the Parliamentary opposition."

AL-HAYAT (Editor: Kamil Maruwwa, Shia-Moslem, independent)

This paper's Special Correspondent writes that investigations are still being continued with Muhammad and Hassan al-As'ad and that the Military Court is handling the matter on the grounds that the arrested persons possessed arms. The correspondent continues:

"It is understood that the investigation is now interested in determining the source of the arms, the purpose of bearing them and whether there was a conspiracy against anyone. It is reported that the arrested persons have denied the existence of a

editorializes on Foreign Minister Philip Tacla's explanations to the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee regarding his trip to South America and Europe during which he dwelt on the tripartite declaration and on Lebanon's support to Spain's nomination for UN membership. The editorial then states in part:

"Officially, Lebanon is known to be still following a neutral policy toward the struggle of the 'giants'. The Prime Minister... does not let any occasion pass without proclaiming his adherence to neutrality. How then could we be neutral and then sponsor the view of the Western half of the world in a grave question like Spain's? Where is our special national interest in this policy? Why should we give our relations with Spain a place which we withheld from the other powers? Does the Foreign Minister think that we should be contented with our neutrality by merely receiving and visiting the Soviet Envoys?

"We would not have raised such a question were it not for the tripartite declaration which has created an uproar, the extent of which is known to everyone. This declaration has indicated, in the view of more than one wise man, that the West does not believe that the Arabs possess courage and liberty which allow them to be 'demonized,' except in words! Is our treaty with Spain and sympathy for its nomination to UN the first sign of the policy of open siding with the demagogues, which is consecrated by the declaration? ... We do not believe in neutrality. But we believe in our right freely to determine our foreign policy."

AL-HADAF (Editor: Iuhair Isairan, Shia-Moslem, pro-government)

deploring the present political crisis in Syria and wonders "What has happened in Damascus, the city of rebellion and revolution, the city of doctrine and mission, while everything surrounding it and surrounding us is threatening with calamities and creating fear and apprehension in our hearts? The odor of 'schemes' is pervading the atmosphere and the claws of the imperialists are burying themselves here and there according to a planned policy which cannot be checked or destroyed except by the strong who are armed with the weapon of unity and collaboration." The editorial then hopes that the crisis in Syria will be overcome because the Arab peoples cannot hide their fear of the fate facing Syria if its leaders fail to bring about the stability which is necessary for restoring confidence and hope for safely emerging from this critical phase.